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Lord's,
Entire New System of
Ornithology.
OR
OECUMENICAL HISTORY, of
BRITISH BIRDS.



Under the Inspection and Patronage, of the

Rev. Mr. Peters.

Chaplain, to His Royal Highness the

Prince of Wales.

The whole accurately copied from the Original Paintings,

now in the possession of the

ARTIST.

With a brief account of their Characters, & Properties.

The writing Corrected, & Embellish'd, by the

Rev. Dr. Dupree.

Master of the KING'S, Free Grammar School, at

BERKHAMSTEAD.

L O N D O N.

Published as the Act directs May. 30. 1791. by the Author. N° 12 King St Bloomsbury

I N T R O D U C T I O N.

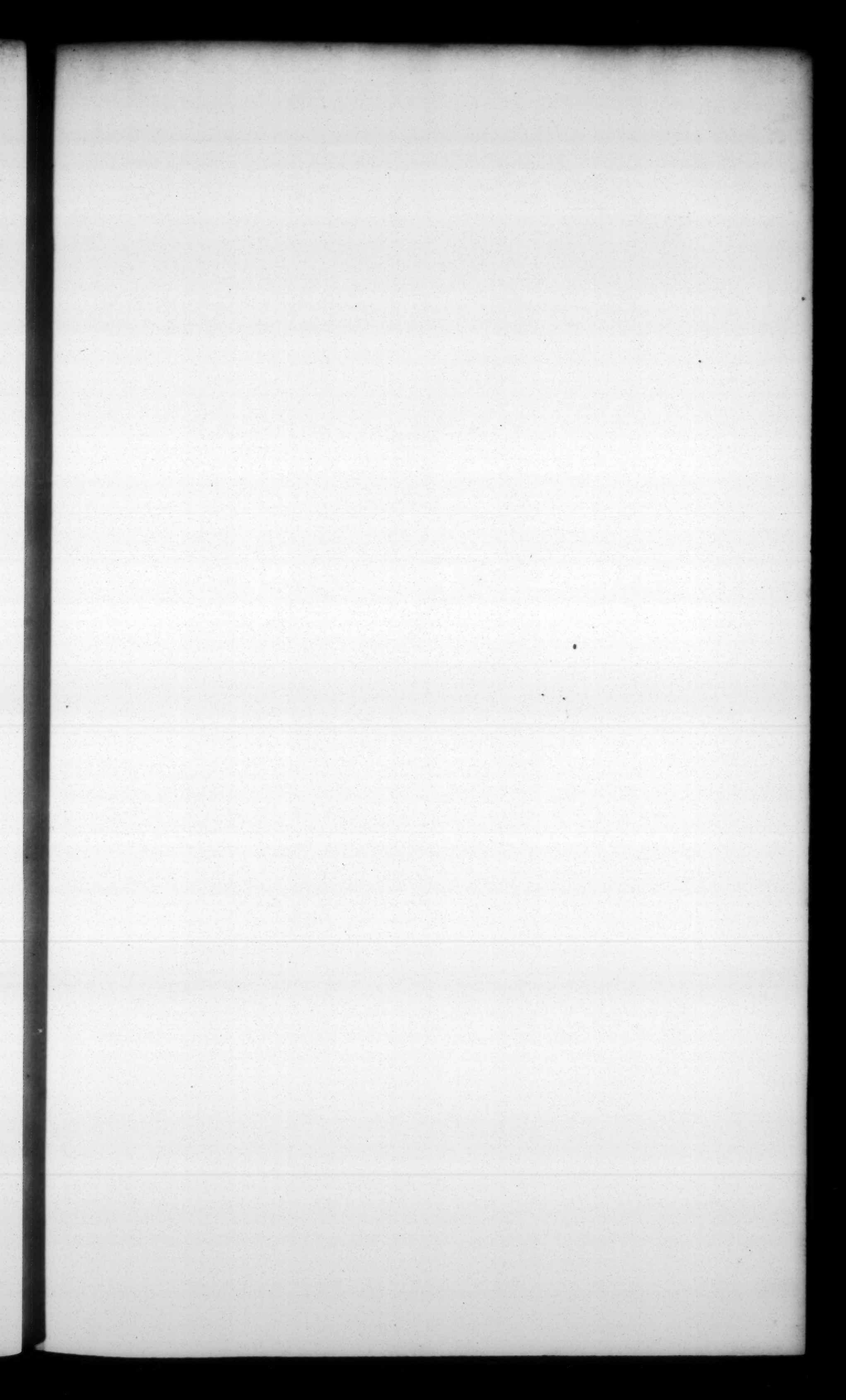
THE following work is submitted to the judgment of a candid public, with that diffidence, which is natural to the human mind, conscious of its imperfection; but not without a certain portion of flattering expectation in its success. The plan, on which it is formed, is, in many respects original, and is calculated to supply those defects which have been so prominent in other systems of ornithology. The work is published in numbers, of which each contains three plates, four and five birds alternately, with their nest and eggs. All the birds, which the plate can admit, are represented as large as life, and copied with a minute and scrupulous accuracy from the original paintings, executed by the author, and now in his possession. Delineations of nature, so exact and faithful, will supersede the necessity of laboured and voluminous description. Hence, under each portrait is given a simple and concise natural history of the lineage, character, and property of each bird.

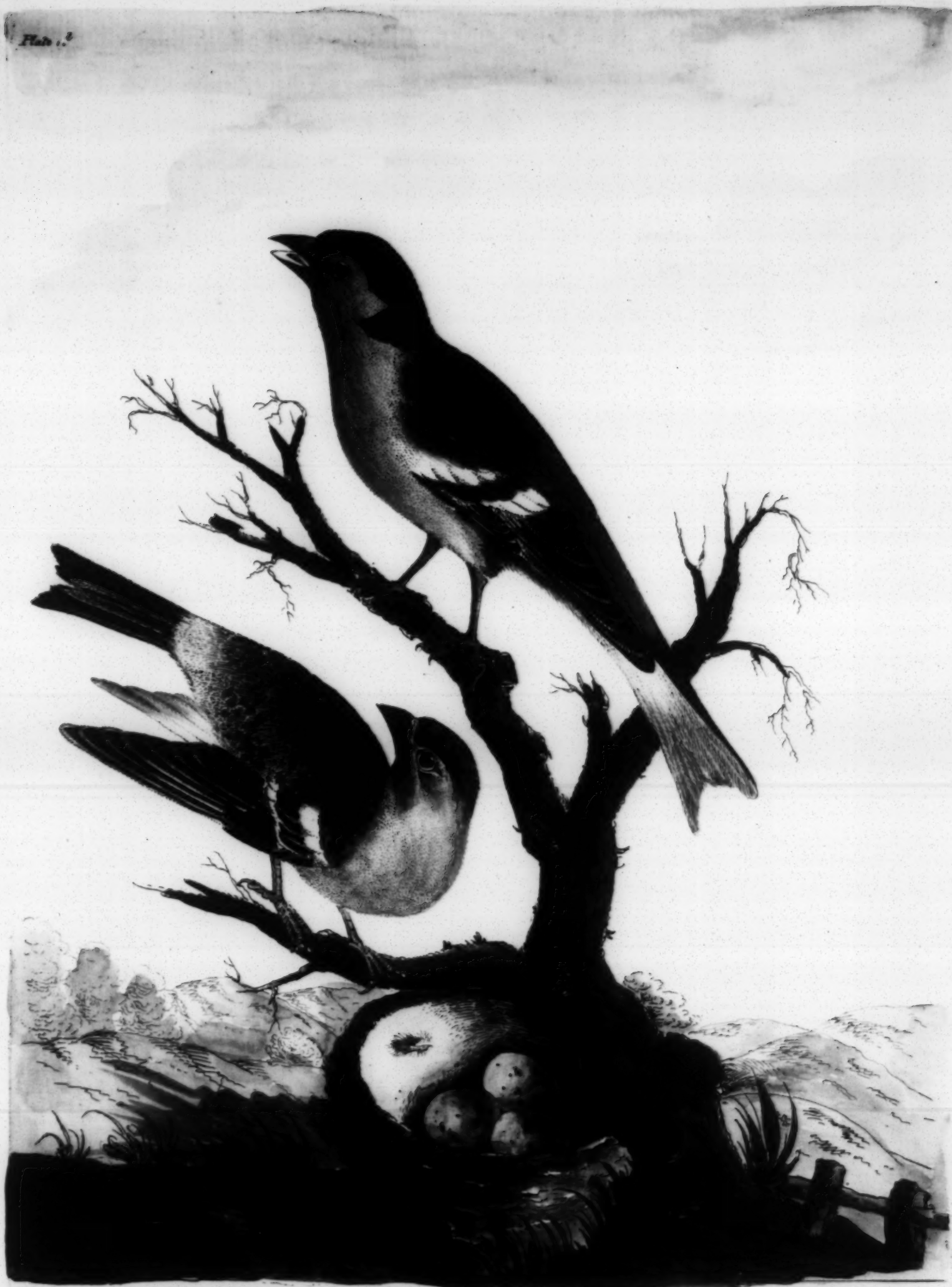
This disposition, it is obvious to remark, holds out considerable advantages; for the picture being presented to the eye, and a short philosophical explanation of the subject being annexed, the memory retains it without much application, and without the labour of that reading which must be encountered to digest the excellent treatises of an Aristotle, a Buffon, a Derham, a Ray, a Brisson, and a Pennant; writers, whose deep researches into the operations of nature, have improved science, and have widely diffused the knowledge of animal life. In former works of this kind, the description has been tedious and elaborate, while the portraits have been inconsiderable, and thinly scattered. But here, to an accurate account is prefixed, an exact delineation of every bird; which of itself produces a perfect picture; and each number, having no communication nor dependance upon that which precedes, and that which is to follow, must be esteemed intrinsically completed and finished. Objections may, perhaps, be made to the brilliancy of the colouring; but let it be observed (and let the reader carry this observation with him through the work) that the author always draws the bird at that particular period, when the plumage is in its full lustre; a circumstance which does not take place before the third year, and is chiefly conspicuous in the breeding season.

Such are the outlines of that Oecumenical History of British Birds, to which the Author now solicits the attention of the public; an history, which men of taste, and all the lovers of natural science have long, and eagerly wished to behold. From the representation of its originality and usefulness thus briefly stated, shall he be pardoned if he presumes to indulge an ardent hope of

patronage

patronage and countenance? From that period, when the Royal Society was established, the most happy and successful researches into the works of nature have been made; and we every day behold the happy effects of that philosophy, which directs its efforts to the improvement of geography, to the investigation of vegetable life, and to the discovery of the structure, and the qualities of animals. They who labour in this extensive field, where so much still remains to be cultivated, are entitled to some favor from that public, to whose instruction and amusement they devote their studies and their pursuits. In this point of view, the Author of the present work, desires to be considered. He is not so unreasonable as to expect success, if it be not deserved: but he may truly assure his patrons, that no pains shall be spared by him to render his performance a curious and well executed system of British Ornithology.





Printed and Engraved by J. Ford.

London Pub.^d by the Author as the Act directs. May 20. 1791.

P L A T E I.

The Chaffinch.

THIS bird is here drawn as large as the life. The male, like many others, is not until the third year, in the full lustre of its plumage. They build in elm, or apple trees, and their nests have more art and symmetry than those of any birds in this country; as described in the plate. They lay from three to five eggs, and feed chiefly on hay, and small seeds, and are destructive enemies to gardens. In the winter, they visit the farm yards in great numbers, and are so familiar and domestic as to sing sitting on the finger: they are also frequently purchased as singing birds; although their note is short, but constantly repeated. A barbarous custom prevails of putting out their eyes, to make them sing during the night. They are very docile, and are taught to eat out of the mouth. While young, this bird resembles the female, but gradually improves, until the third year in richness and brilliancy of colour.

I T A L Y

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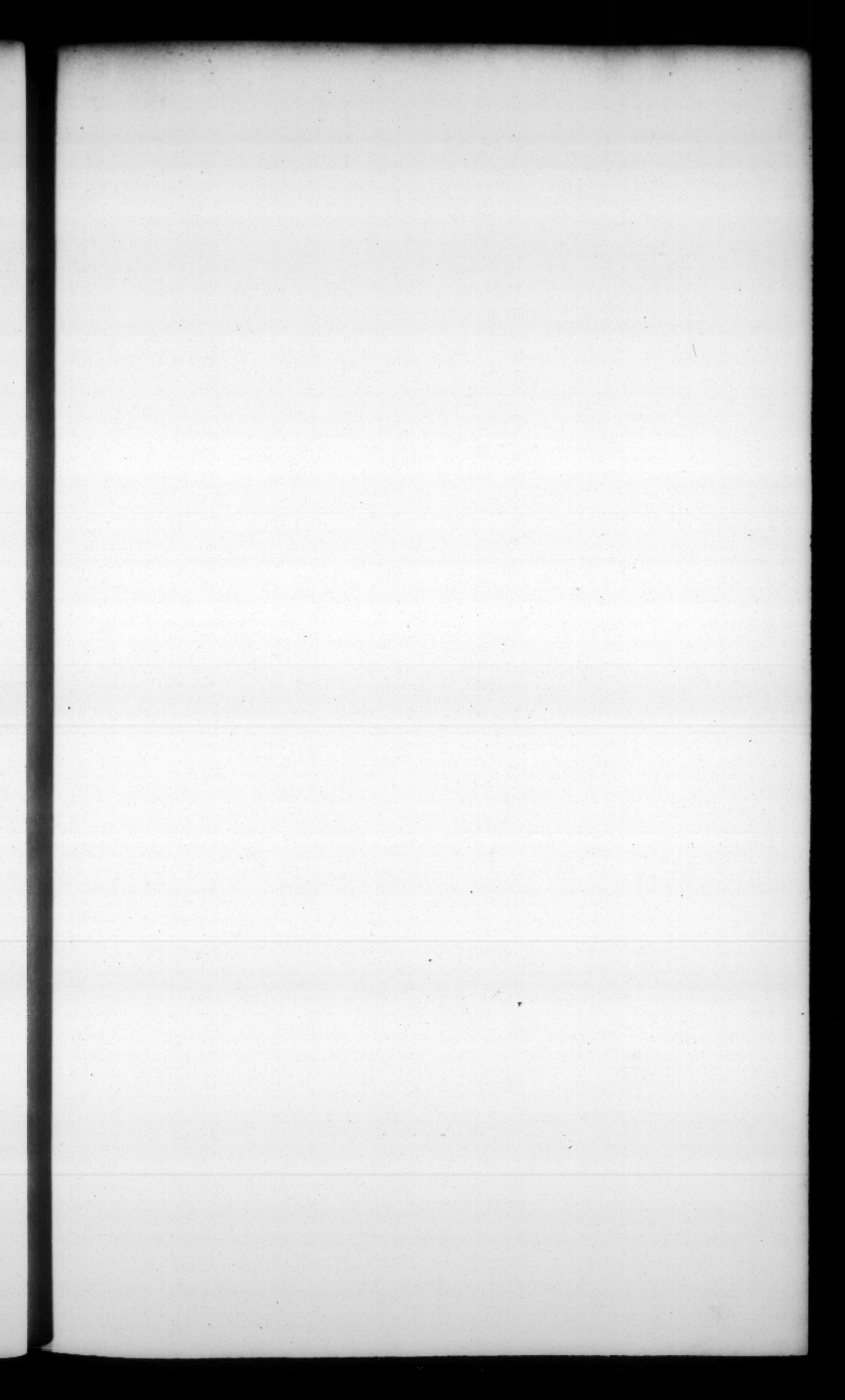
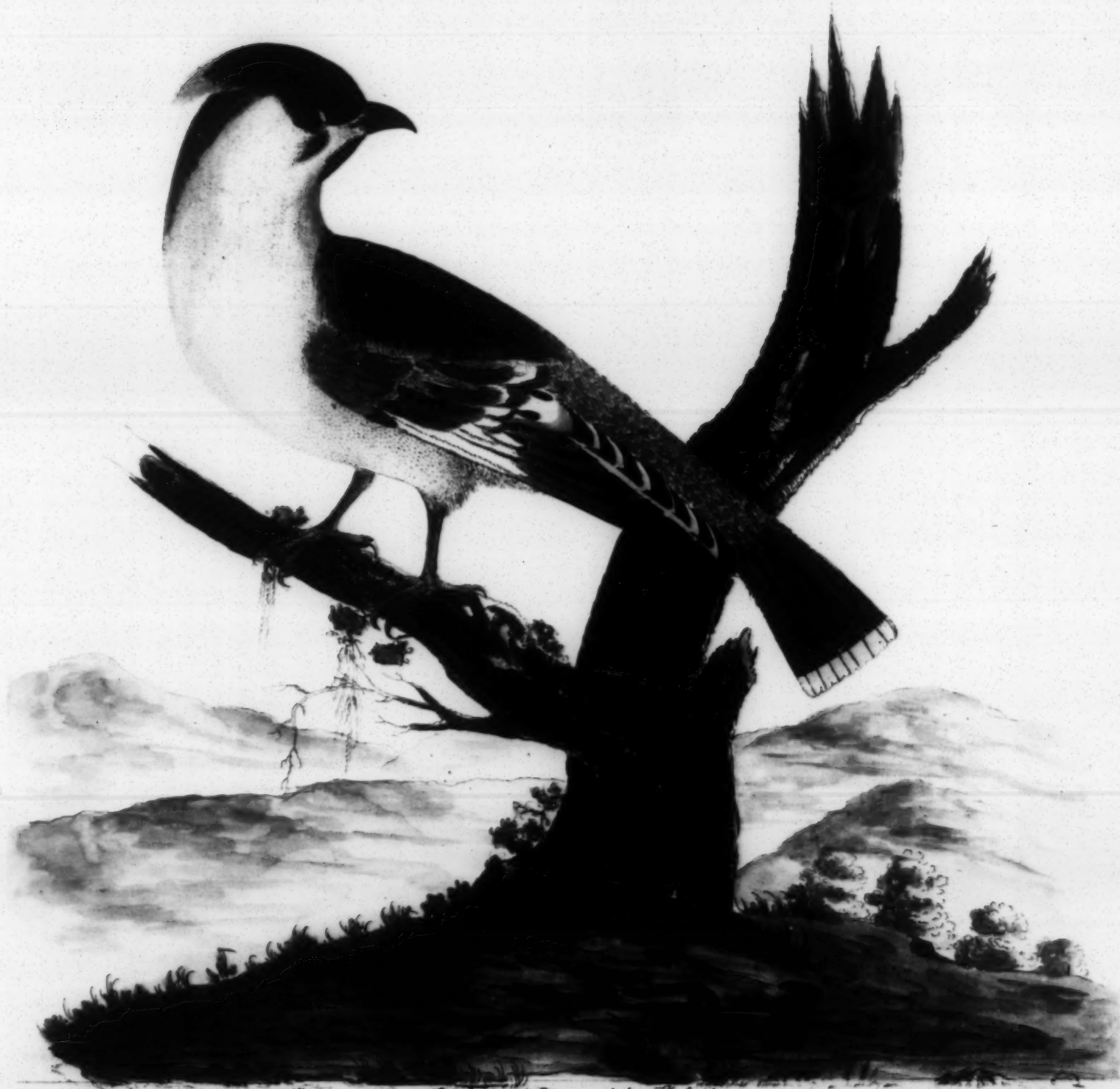


Plate 2.



Painted and Engraved by J. Lord.

London. Pub^d by the Author in the Act direct. May 10. 1791.

P L A T E II.

Bohemia Chatterer.

THIS is a bird of passage, and like the Field-fare, or Red-wing, appears at the latter end of the year. The male and female were shot at Amersham, in Bucks, as they were feeding on the berries of a Barbery tree, of which, together with those of the mounting-ash, they are peculiarly fond. The five scarlet feathers on the wing have all the appearance of sealing-wax, and not the least of feathers: seven, are visible when the wing is expanded. The crest on the head they can erect or depress at pleasure. It is a scarce bird, and seldom to be found but in pairs, which affords ample reason to conclude they are paired all the year.

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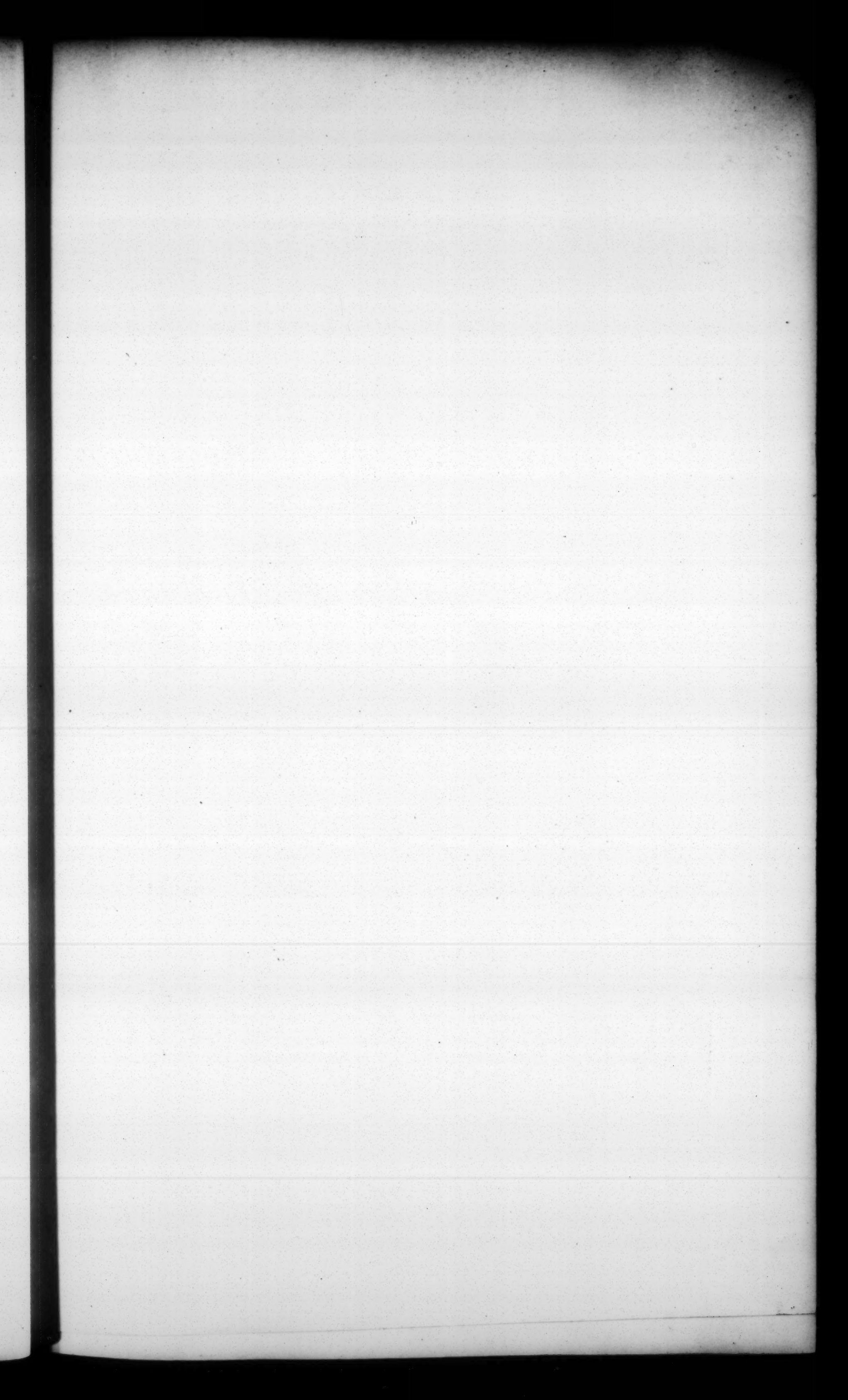
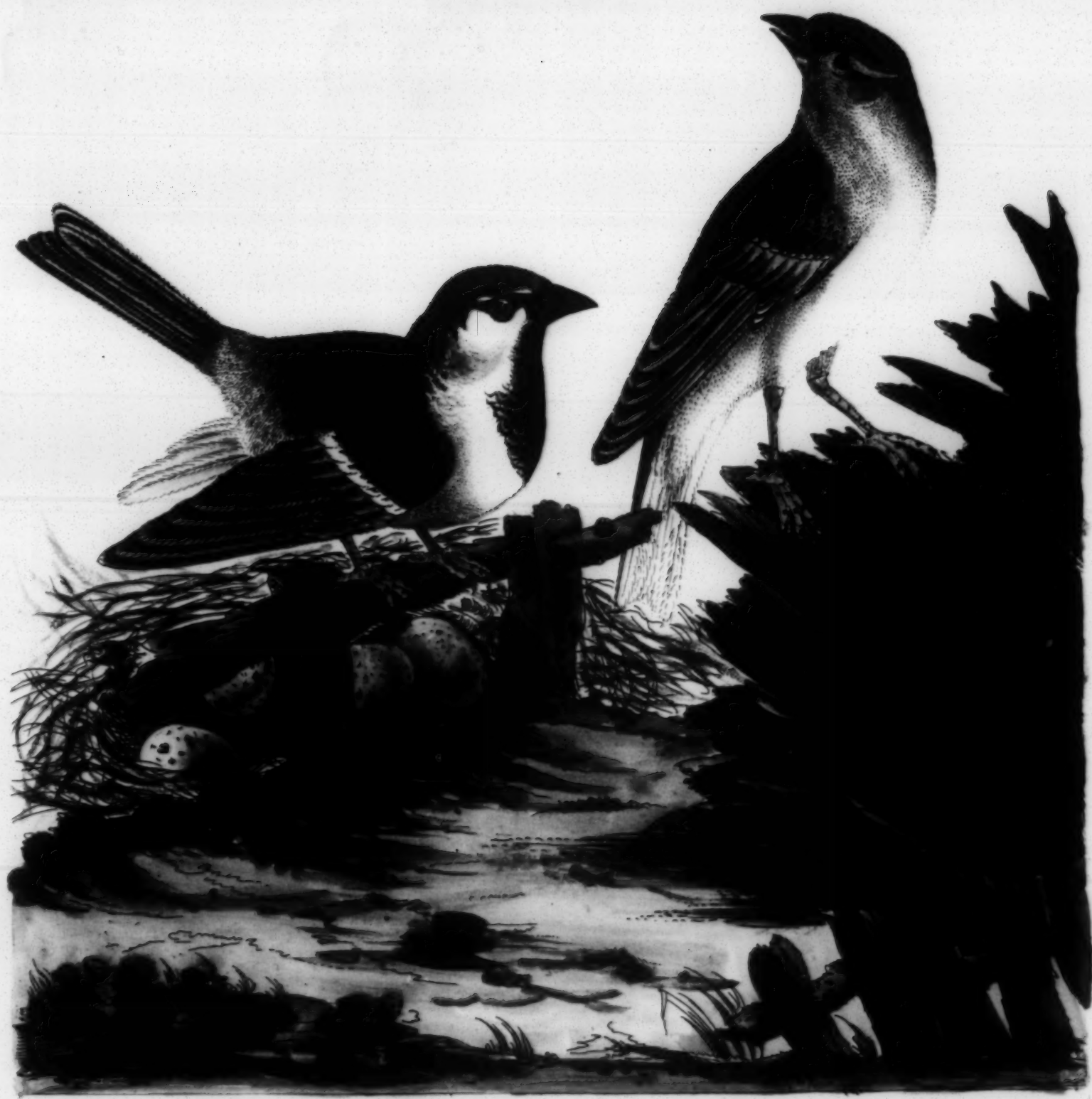
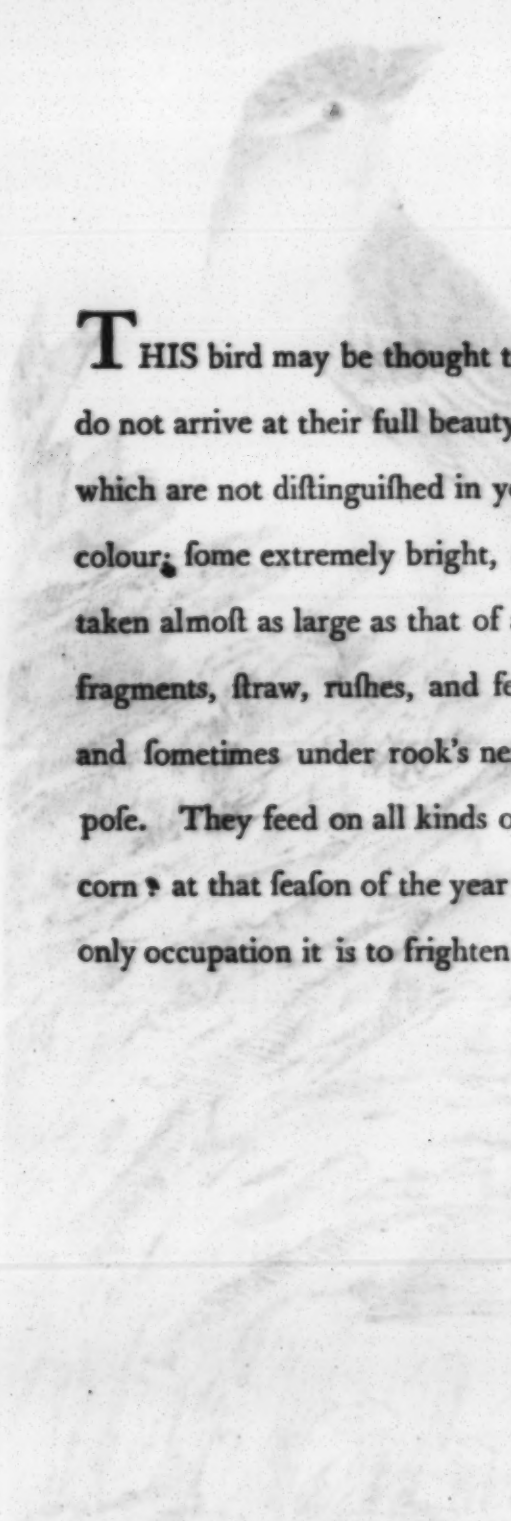


Plate 3.



Painted and Engraved by J. Lord
London. Pub^d by the Author as the Act directs. May 30. 1791.

The common House-Sparrow.



THIS bird may be thought too rich in colour, but, as I have observed in the preface, some birds do not arrive at their full beauty until the third year. Particular marks are found in this portrait, which are not distinguished in younger birds. They lay from five to six eggs, which differ much in colour; some extremely bright, and others are as dark as those of a blackbird. Their nests I have taken almost as large as that of a crow, and I have found them composed of filk, linen, and worsted fragments, straw, rushes, and feathers; they frequently build under the tiles and thatch of houses; and sometimes under rook's nests; and they are also allured to build in bottles, placed for that purpose. They feed on all kinds of grain, and towards the harvest, make great ravages in the fields of corn; at that season of the year they flock together in prodigious numbers; and there are boys whose only occupation it is to frighten them away with clappers, adapted for that use.

The common House-Sparrow

This bird is one of the most common and useful of our country. It is found in great numbers in all parts of the country, and is especially numerous in the vicinity of towns and cities. It is a very hardy bird, and is able to withstand the cold of winter. It is also a very social bird, and is often found in large flocks. It is a very intelligent bird, and is able to learn to sing. It is also a very useful bird, as it feeds on the seeds of weeds and grain, and thus helps to keep the fields free from weeds. It is a very common bird, and is found in all parts of the country.

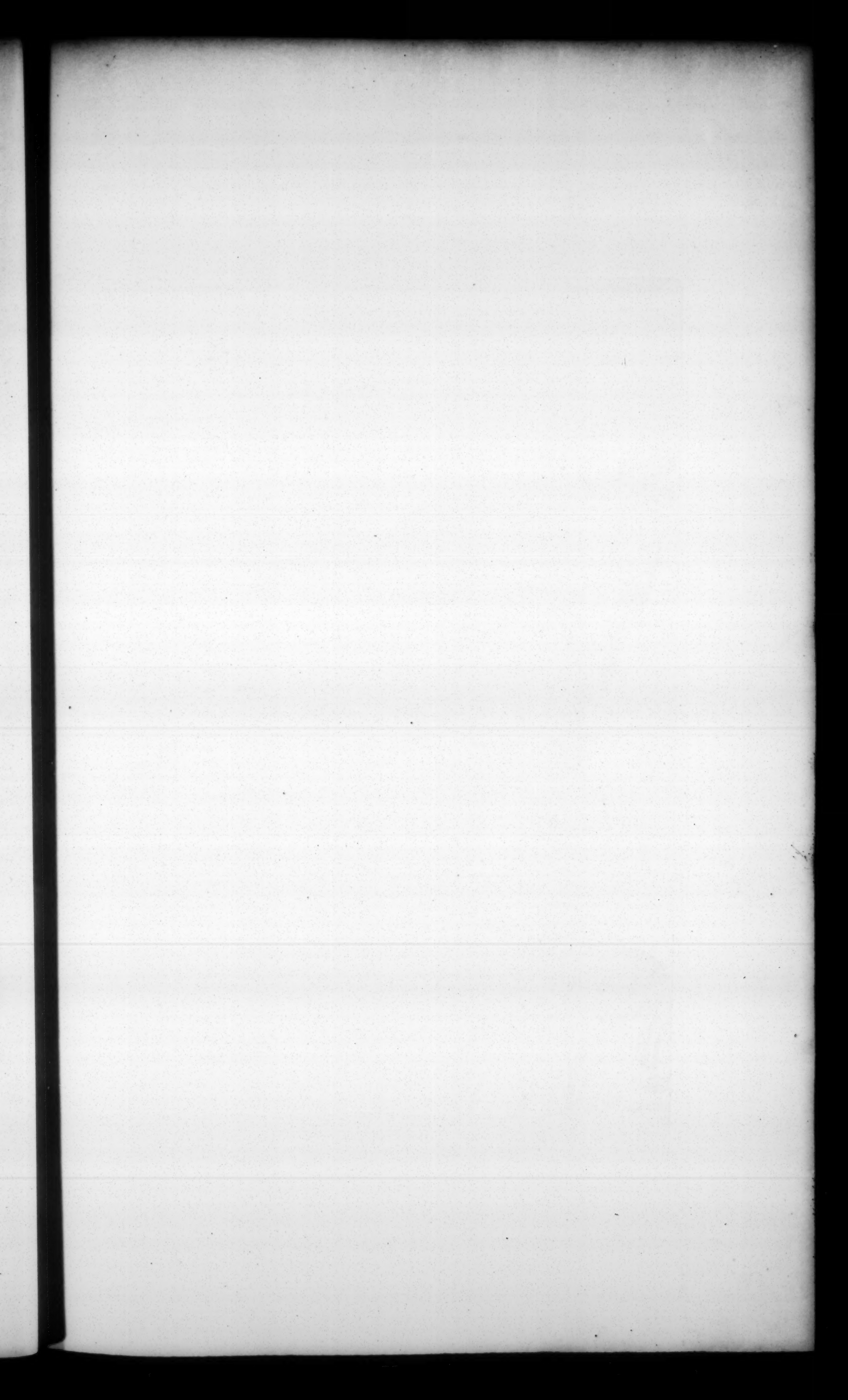


Plate 4.th



The Yellowhammer. Painted and Engraved by T. Lovel.

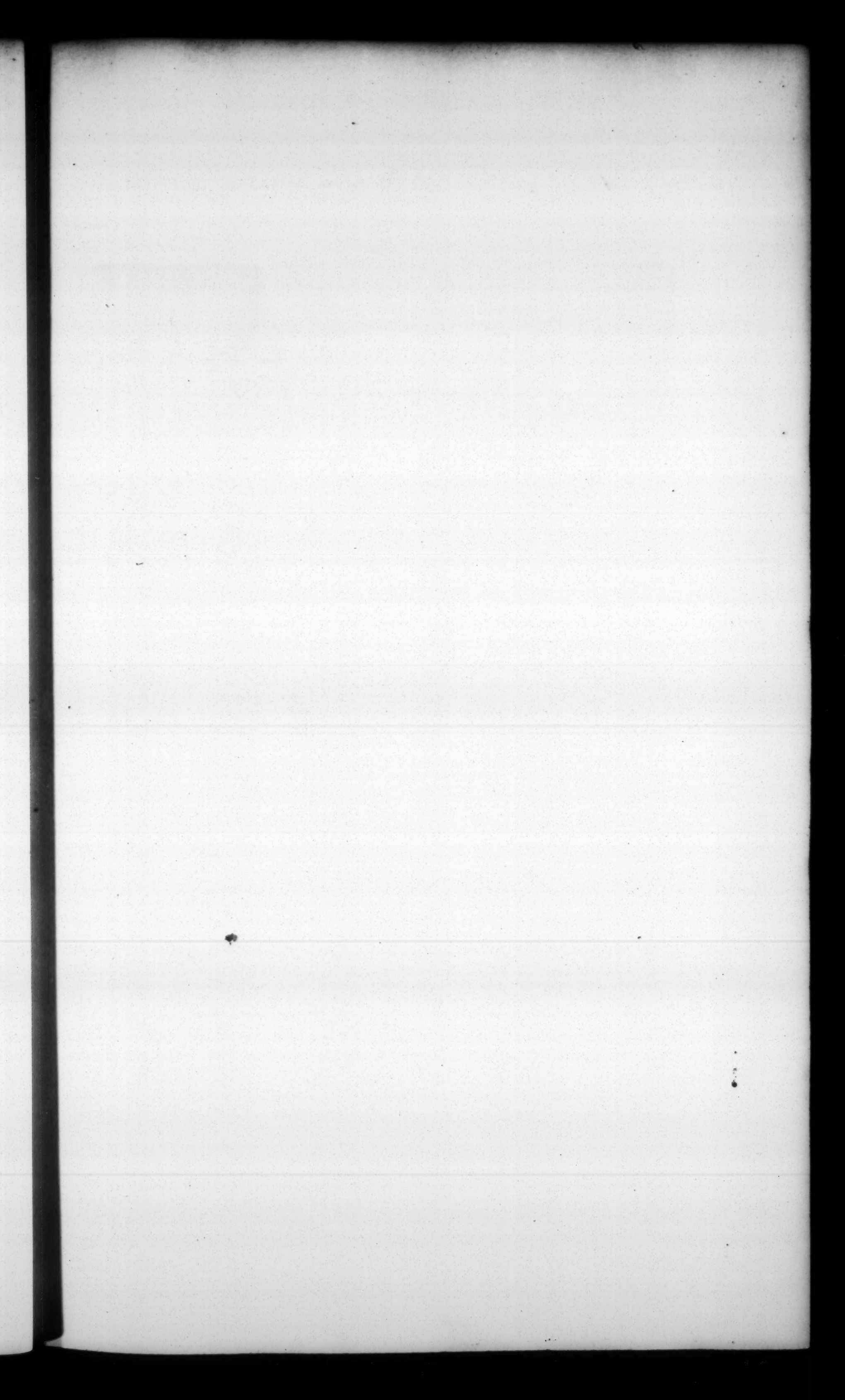
London Pub^d by the Author as the Act directs June 1. 1791.

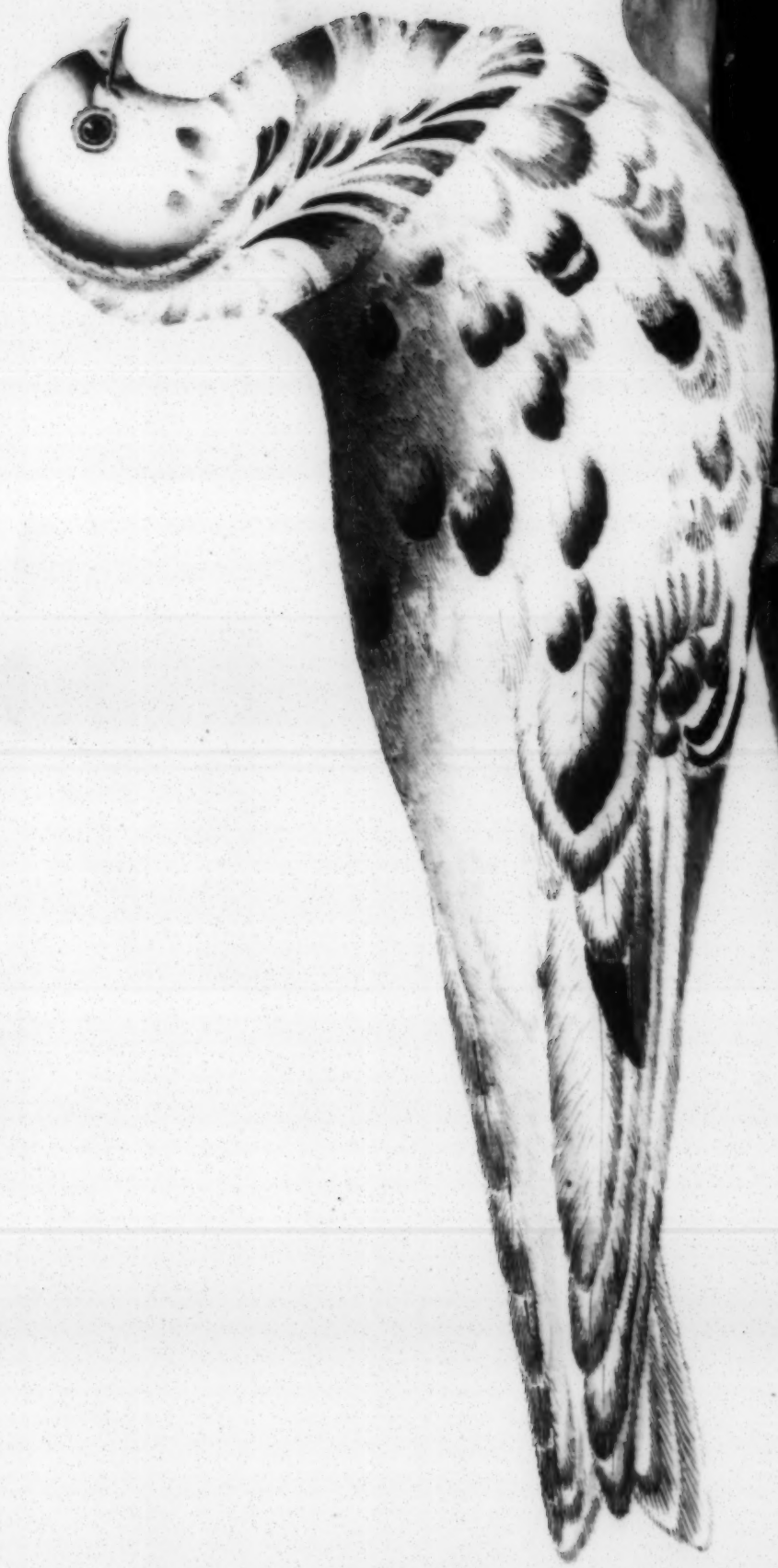
P L A T E I V .

The Yellow-Hammer.

IS one of our most common birds, and like the Chaffinches feeds on seeds, and flocks with them in the winter. But in the spring of the year we see them only in pairs; and it is then they begin to sing: their note consists but of a few strokes, and is rather melancholy. Their feathers are long, and differ in colour according to their age, as it has been remarked in the preface. Their nests are built on the side of a bank, and are composed of dried flat grass, lined with horse-hair. Their eggs, which are generally five in number, are beautifully veined with purple, as described in the plate. They raise, or lay down the feathers on their head at pleasure; and are very strong and vigorous, and capable of supporting the most severe winter; of which circumstance the numbers, which appear in the coldest season, afford an ample proof.

PLATE





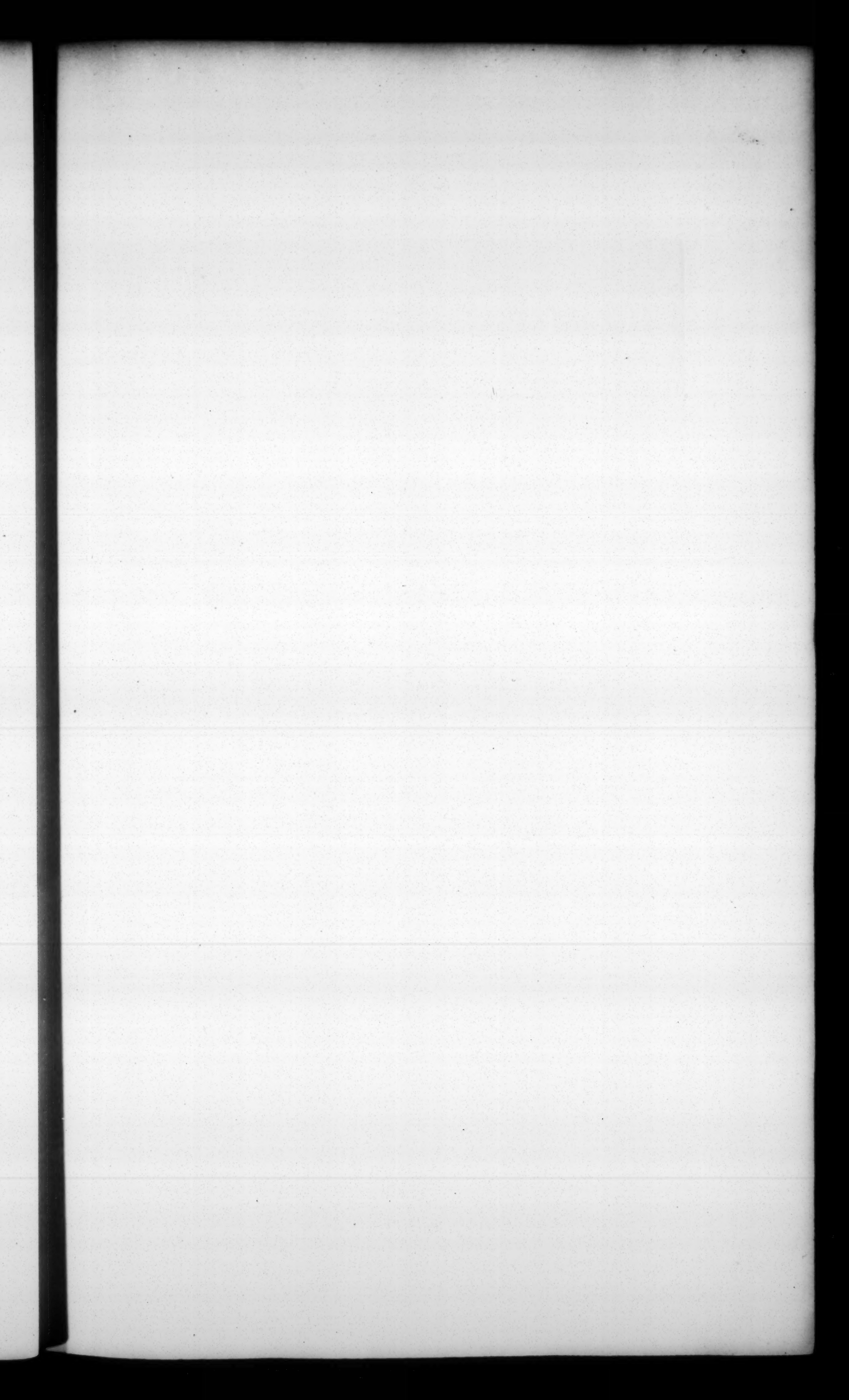
The Sparrow. Painted and Engraved by J. A. Aud.

London, 1816. By the Author on the Art Director, June 18, 1816.

P L A T E V.

The Jack, or Jacobine.

THIS Pidgeon is esteemed the most beautiful of the Dove kind, but differs very much in colour, The Fanciers are so exact as to hold them of little value, if they distinguish any false marks in them, as the term is;—that is, if the colour be not perfectly correspondent, and the hood from the head to the breast exactly regular. The right colour is obtained by matching male and female from time to time, until they arrive to what is called a true marked pidgeon; and the breeders then esteem them valuable, and can have their own price. They lay two eggs; the female sits all night, and about eleven o'clock in the morning she comes off to feed, and returns not before the evening, when she resumes, and the male quits the nest. They breed, for the most part, during all the year; and, particularly, if they are kept in a room which is not cold in the winter. Hence it is always endeavoured to give them the utmost advantage of the sun at that season.





The Red Wing. Painted and Engraved by J. Lord.

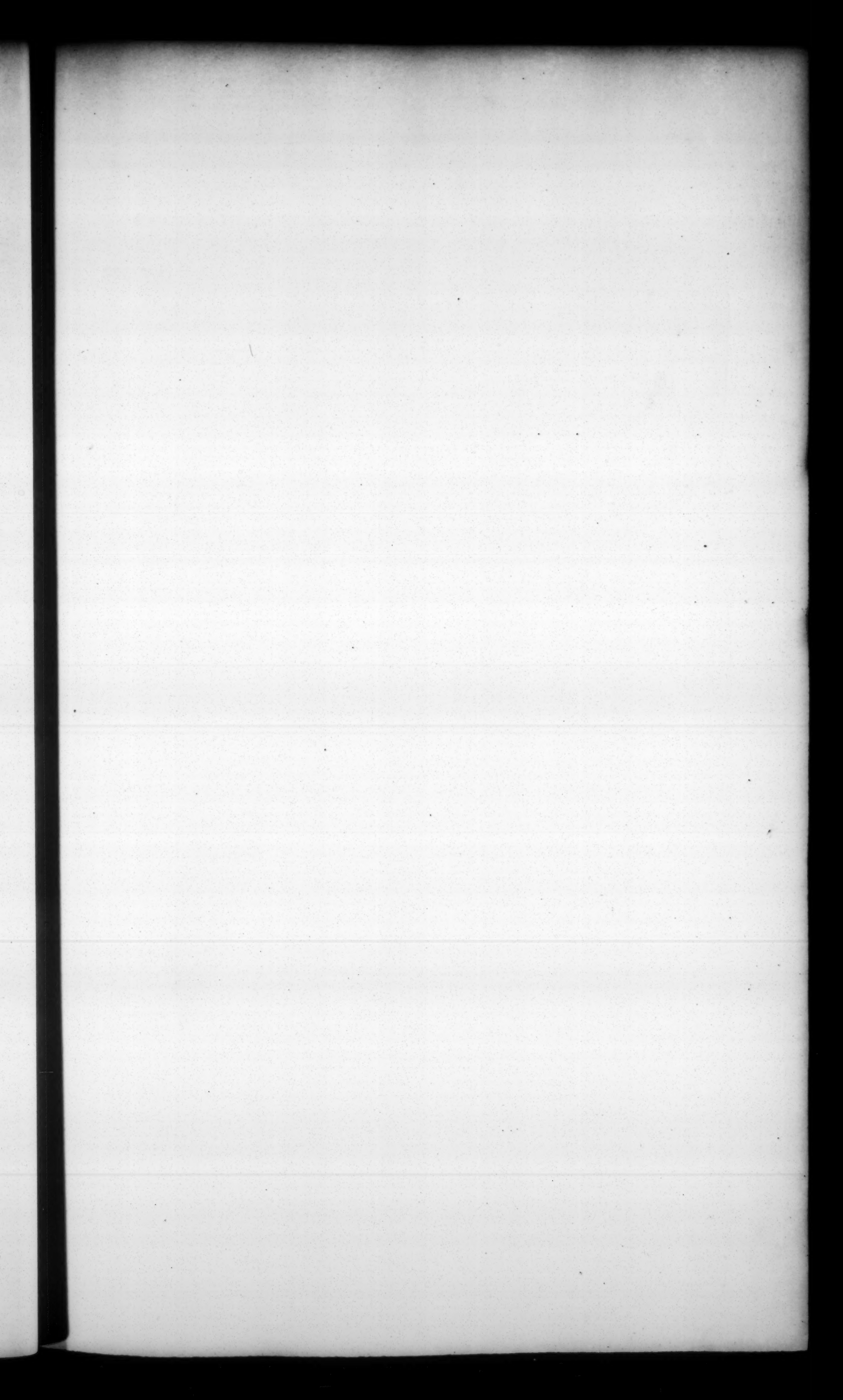
London: Sold by the Author as the Act directs. June 14 1796.

P L A T E VI.

The Red Wing.

VISITS us in company with the Fieldfare, in the winter, and feeds on the berries of the white-thorn, and such food as the hedges at that season afford. This bird, is full of flesh, but not remarkably delicious to the taste, and is difficult of approach, if the season be mild: flocks perch on the summit of the loftiest trees, and if one of them move, the rest are immediately on the wing. It is a neat close-feathered bird, and is a species of the thrush, but has no song, like our common thrush.

PLATE VI





The Partridge. London. Publ. at the Act directed, July 14. 1791. by the Author.

Printed and Engraved by T. Lord.

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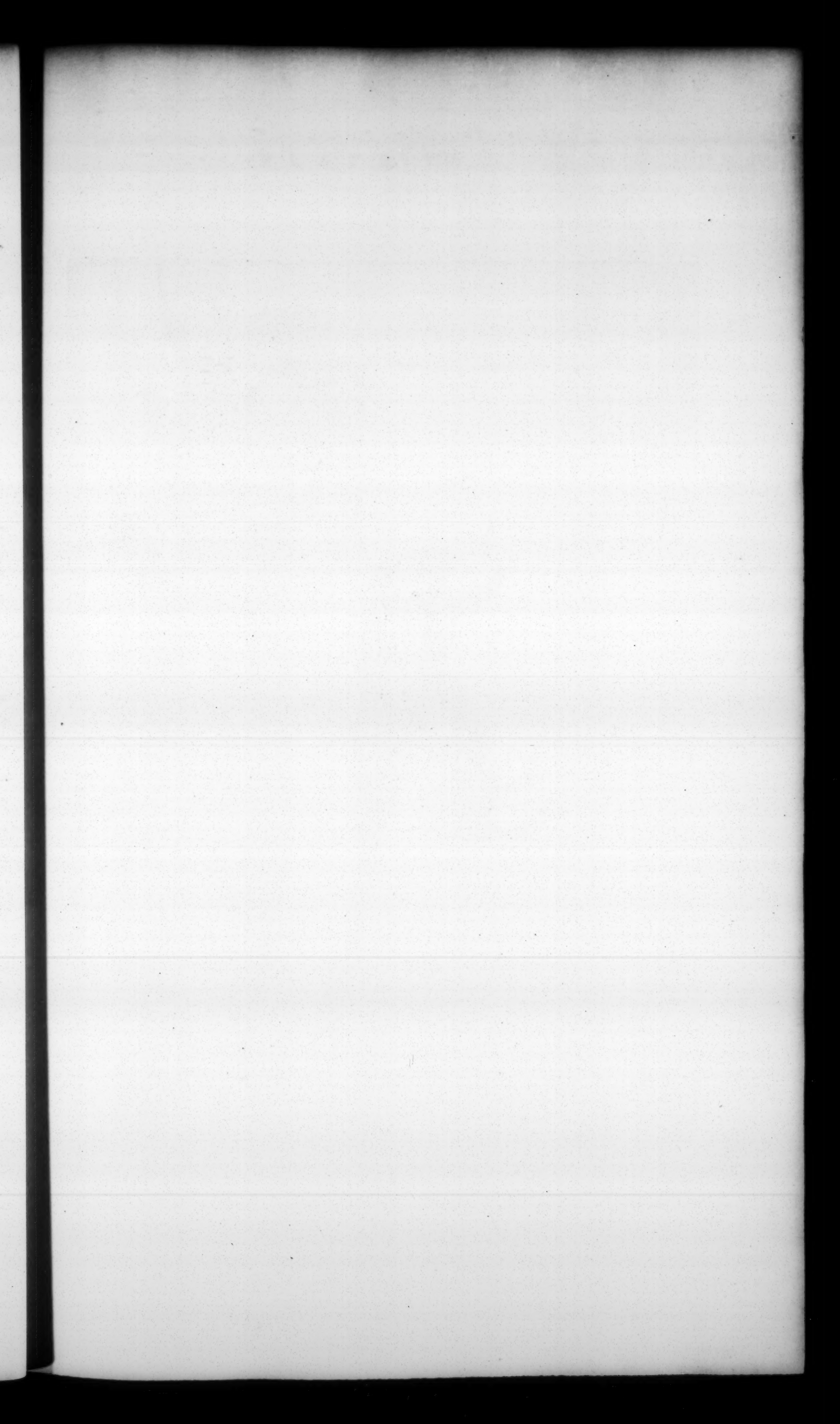
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The Partridge.

THE sporting world is well acquainted with the external discriminations of this bird ; but it does not therefore follow that all its peculiar manners and customs are equally and generally known. I shall, then, offer some few remarks.—

These birds feed upon green corn, and are likewise very destructive to wheat in the ear. They continue among the stubble, until it can no longer afford them provision, and then resort to the green turnips in covies, which never separate before the approach of the pairing season. They lay sixteen eggs, or more, and in general produce an equal number of young ones, which, although able to run as soon as hatched, are the most tender of the feathered tribe. The female having found a place for them to drink, they attend it periodically for that purpose. Her industry to discover the nest of the ant, or pismire, in order to scratch for their eggs, and feed her little progeny, is extremely curious. These birds are sometimes hatched under a bantam hen, and may be easily reared by a constant supply of ant's eggs. For the space of ten or twelve months they will follow the hen, which, during that period, is totally regardless of her own species. Their long attendance on the brood renders it evident that partridges sit but once in a season, except their eggs be taken. They never separate but on the report of a gun. They may scatter, but they have a note, or call, by which they are easily collected. Wild as they are, you may approach these birds, when sitting, so near as to reach them with the hand ; for they never forsake their nests without the utmost reluctance. Although their eggs are many, the young ones come all together. It deserves to be remarked, as a curious proof of instinct, that if the hen is put up, and her young are near, she flies a few yards, and then drops as if wounded : and this stratagem she will repeat until the supposed enemy is decoyed away at a considerable distance ; her little family, in the mean time, being very active on their part in secreting themselves from the threatened danger. Then, her artifice having succeeded, she returns to them with anxious concern for their safety.





London. Pub'd as the Act directs. Aug 5. 1791.

The Water Wagtail.

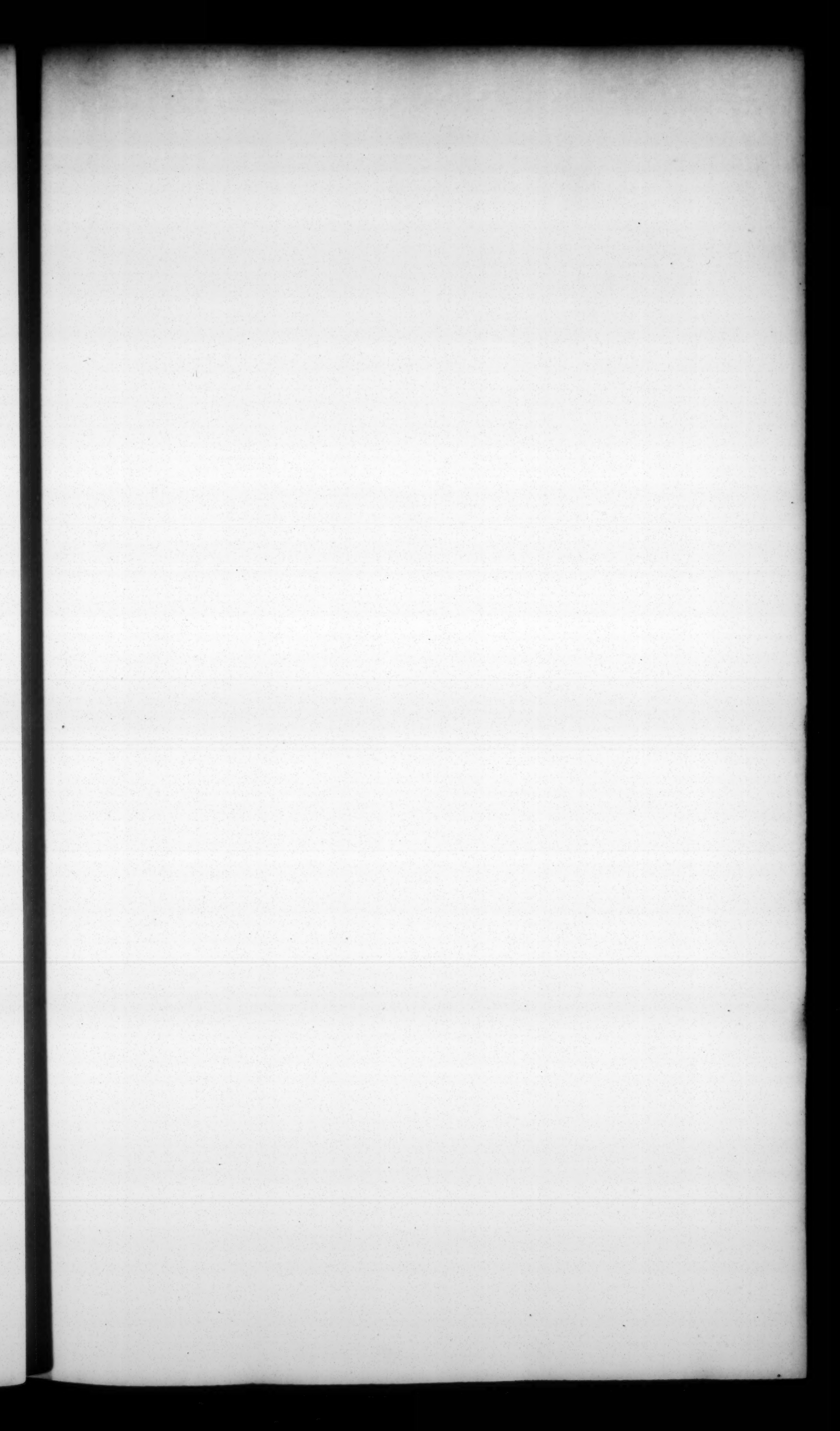
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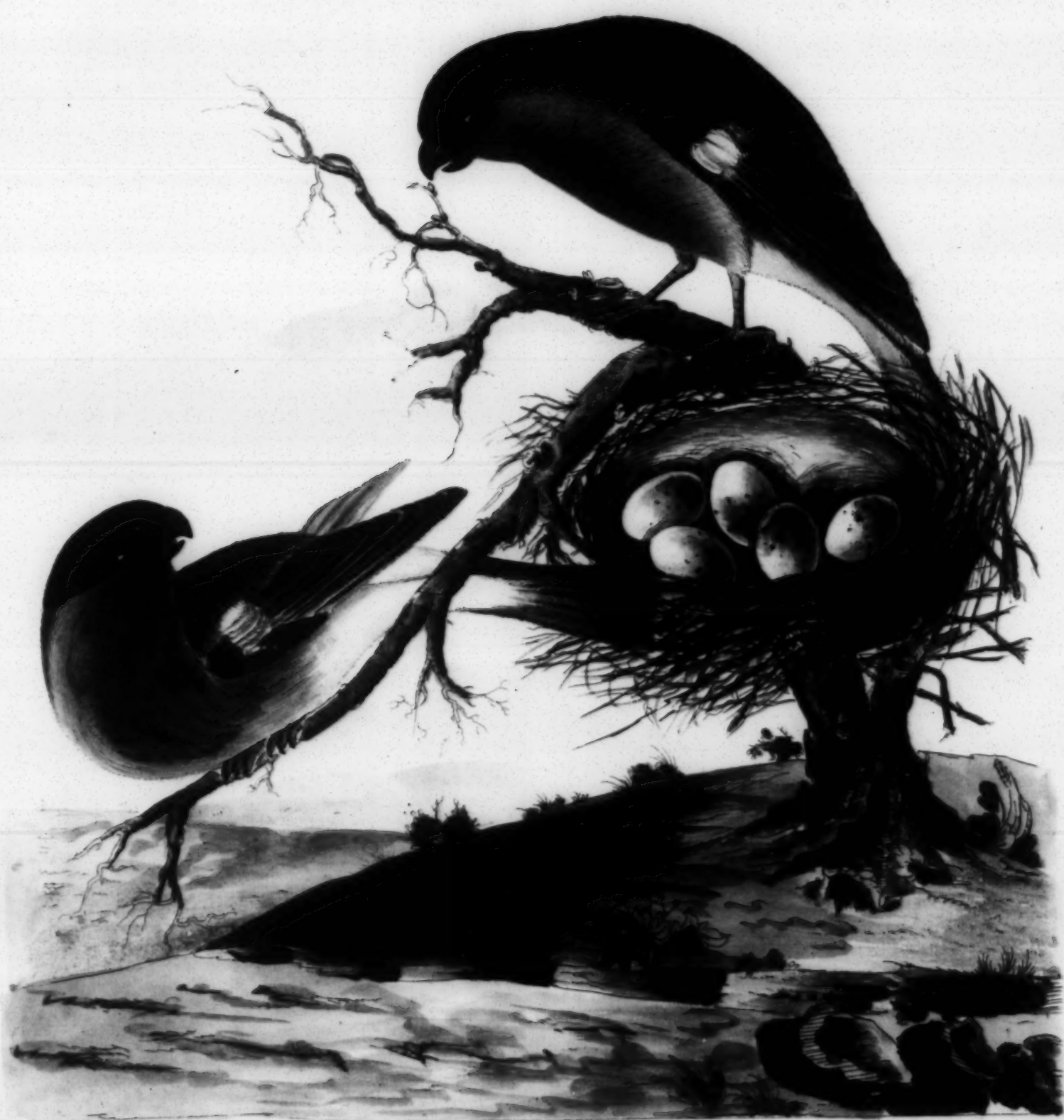
The Water Wagtail, or Dish-Washer.

WE need not repeat the observation made in the preface to this work, that every picture in it is exactly copied from original nature.

These Birds frequent horse-ponds, and muddy waters, for the purpose of catching those flies which hover on the surface in the summer season: but in the winter they feed upon grubs and spiders. Their nests, built in piles of wood, or stacks of faggots, are composed of dried roots, and dead grafs, and lined with hair. Like most of our small birds they sit fourteen days, and generally lay five or six eggs. So very shy are those birds, that if a finger be lifted up they are instantly on the wing. They dart at a fly with a fury equal to that of a hawk at his prey. Their motion is amazingly rapid: and their wings carry them several yards at one stroke. They settle upon the ground, or barns, and the tops of houses, but seldom upon trees. They run with great swiftness upon the brink of the water after the flies. They are not however much esteemed, nor are they ever caged: but it is a bird of stately deportment. Here it may not be improper to give the etymology of their former name. They receive it from this circumstance—that every motion of their body is seconded by a quick movement of the tail.

PLATE VII





Painted and Engraved by T. Leerd. *The Bullfinch.* London. Pub.^d as the Act directs. July 15. 1791.

The Bullfinch, or Nope.

THE beauty and colour of these Birds are exquisite, and their docility in learning tunes is remarkable. Hence they are much esteemed. But they are not long-lived, few of them existing more than five years in a cage. They will produce five young ones at a time, and sit twice or thrice in one year : but in comparison of the numbers hatched very few are seen or caught ; and this may be occasioned by their incapacity to endure severe weather. As they are pernicious enemies to young fruit-trees by feeding on the buds, the gardeners shew them no mercy. In winter, the few which appear are found in the woods, or under hedges. They are paired all the year. Five shillings each are often given for their purchase. When caged they feed upon hemp-feed : but this food is destructive to their health, and shortens their lives ; nor is it less injurious to their beauty ; for it soon darkens their glowing colours. It may be added, that it is not unusual to make choice of these birds for the purpose of teaching them to pipe a tune from a small hand organ, or pipe. But then the key note of the pipe must be to the pitch of the bird's common note, and they must be taken young, and hear only the same tune, which must be played to them until the following spring.

The Building of No. 1

The building of No. 1 is a small, single-story structure, constructed of brick, with a gabled roof. It is situated on a small plot of land, and is surrounded by a low wall. The building is in good condition, and is well-maintained. It is a typical example of the architecture of the period, and is a fine specimen of the work of the architect.

The building is a small, single-story structure, constructed of brick, with a gabled roof. It is situated on a small plot of land, and is surrounded by a low wall. The building is in good condition, and is well-maintained. It is a typical example of the architecture of the period, and is a fine specimen of the work of the architect.



Engraved and Rayraved by T Lord

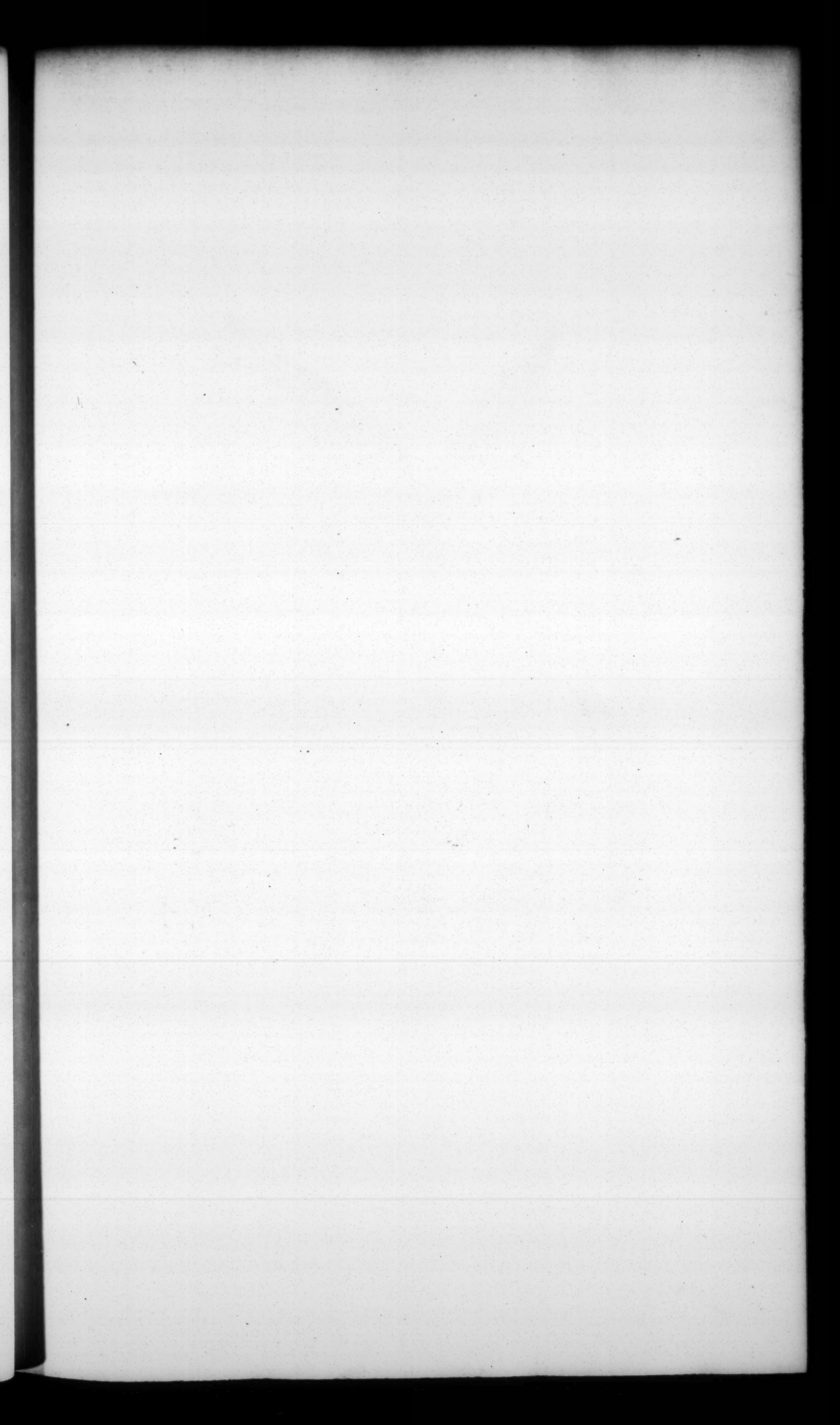
The Woodpecker

London Pub'd as the Act directs by the Author August 1778

The Woodpecker.

FROM the observation frequently made of these birds being seldom found but in pairs, it is concluded that they are paired all the year. In their nature they are very remarkable: they display amazing strength in their flight, for one stroke will carry them more than twenty yards: and when their flight is upon the decline, they rise, and renew it, until they arrive at the tree in view. They alight upon the side, and run swiftly round and round to conceal themselves from every beholder; and having reached that part which is most distant from the enemy, they peep on one side, and then on the other; so that it is curious to mark the various operations of this stratagem. From this extreme caution they are difficult to shoot.

Their tail feathers, which are short and stumpey, they place close to the tree, as a support. Then it is they begin to work for their food, the insects, that live between the bark and the tree. Their tongue is much like that of other birds; but when they search for their food the strength of it is wonderful: they dart it several inches, as from a sheath: it is round, and hard, and very wiry at the tip. They work it under the bark of the tree, and the insects, which inhabit there, being disturbed, immediately run out, and, the tongue of the bird having resumed its natural length, the expected aliment is obtained. For the security of their young it is common with them to select a hollow tree: and, for a nest, their bill is so hard as to peck a hole in the wood; and this is done with so much violence and force that the noise of it is heard at the distance of more than one quarter of a mile. The ash is their general object, and their nest, being very deep in the trunk of the tree, is not easily accessible.

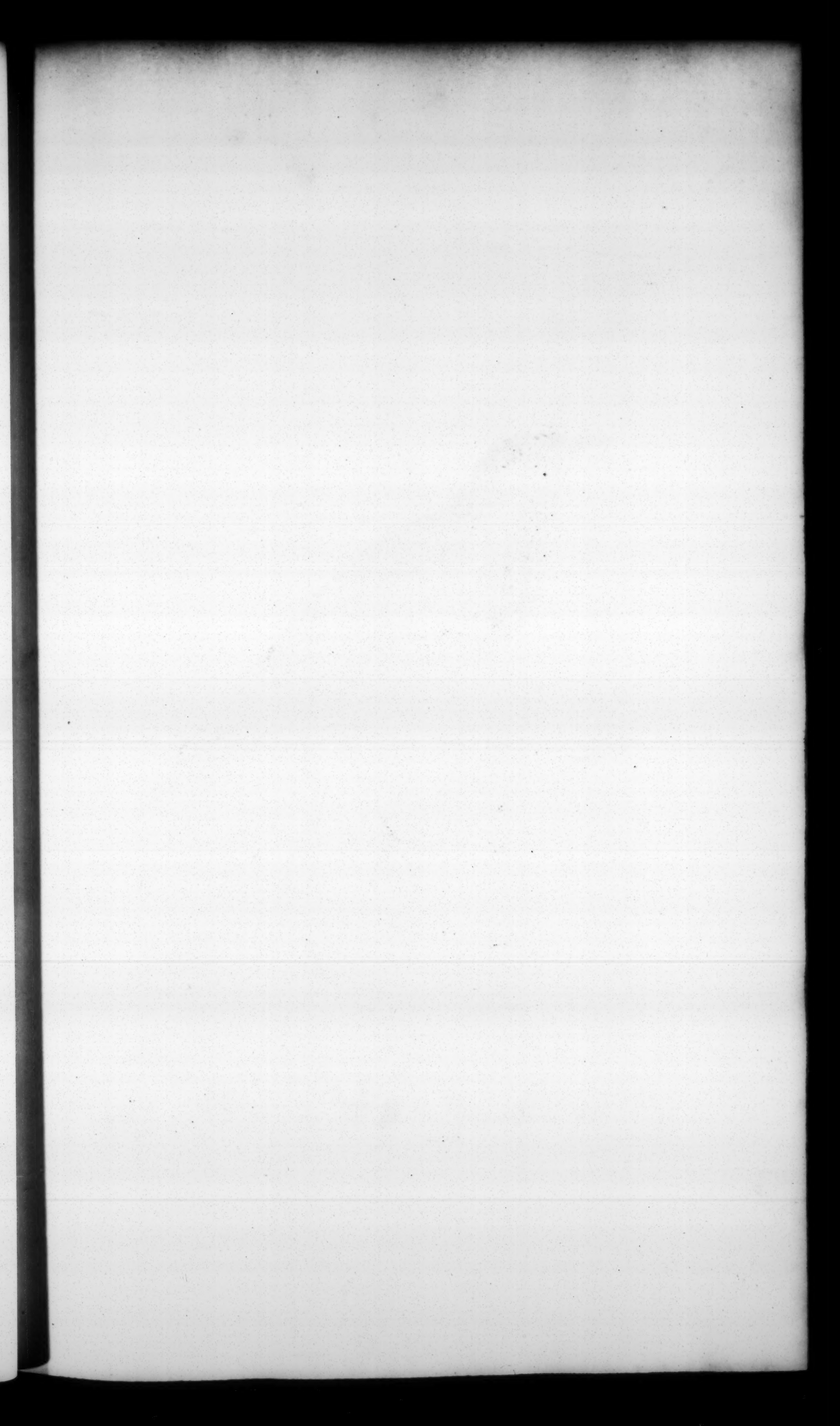


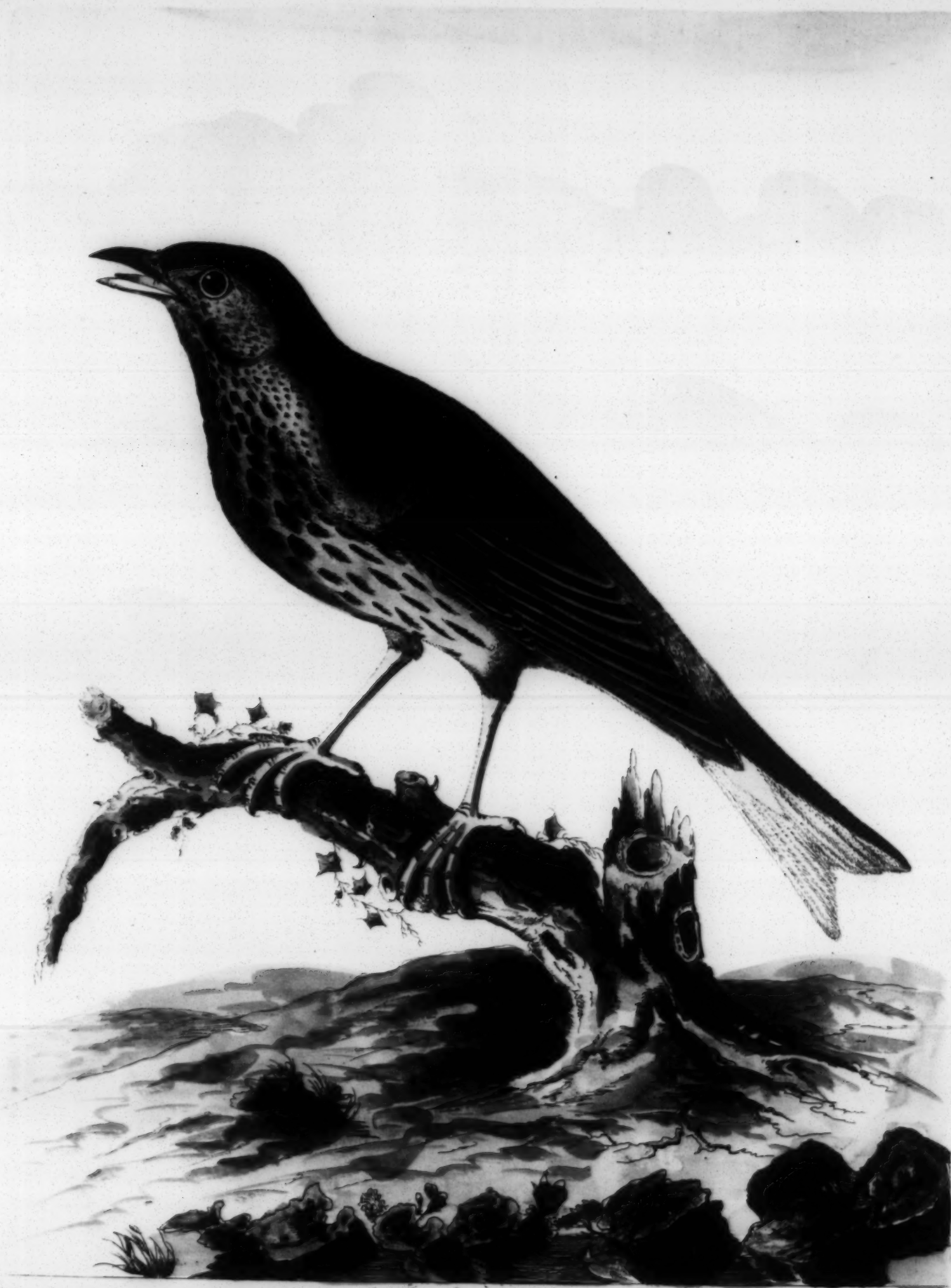


Painted and Engraved by Edward. N^o. 12. King St. Bloomsd^o. *The Greenfinch.* London Pub^d. as the Act directs by the Author August 14. 1791.

The Greenfinch.

IS one of our most common birds. They feed upon every kind of small seeds, and lay five beautiful eggs, as the plate describes. They sit three or four times in the course of the season. Remarkably strong and hardy, they can endure the severest winter. Their song is very short, and very indifferent. They love to frequent gardens, in which they often build, and are mortal enemies to seeds recently sown. As they are not very cautious in concealing their nests, it is found in cut hedges, apple, or fir-trees. In sharp weather, swarms of them visit the farm-yards for their food. Docile and familiar, they are easily taught to draw water, or open a box for their food: and hence numbers are immured in cages by the curious.





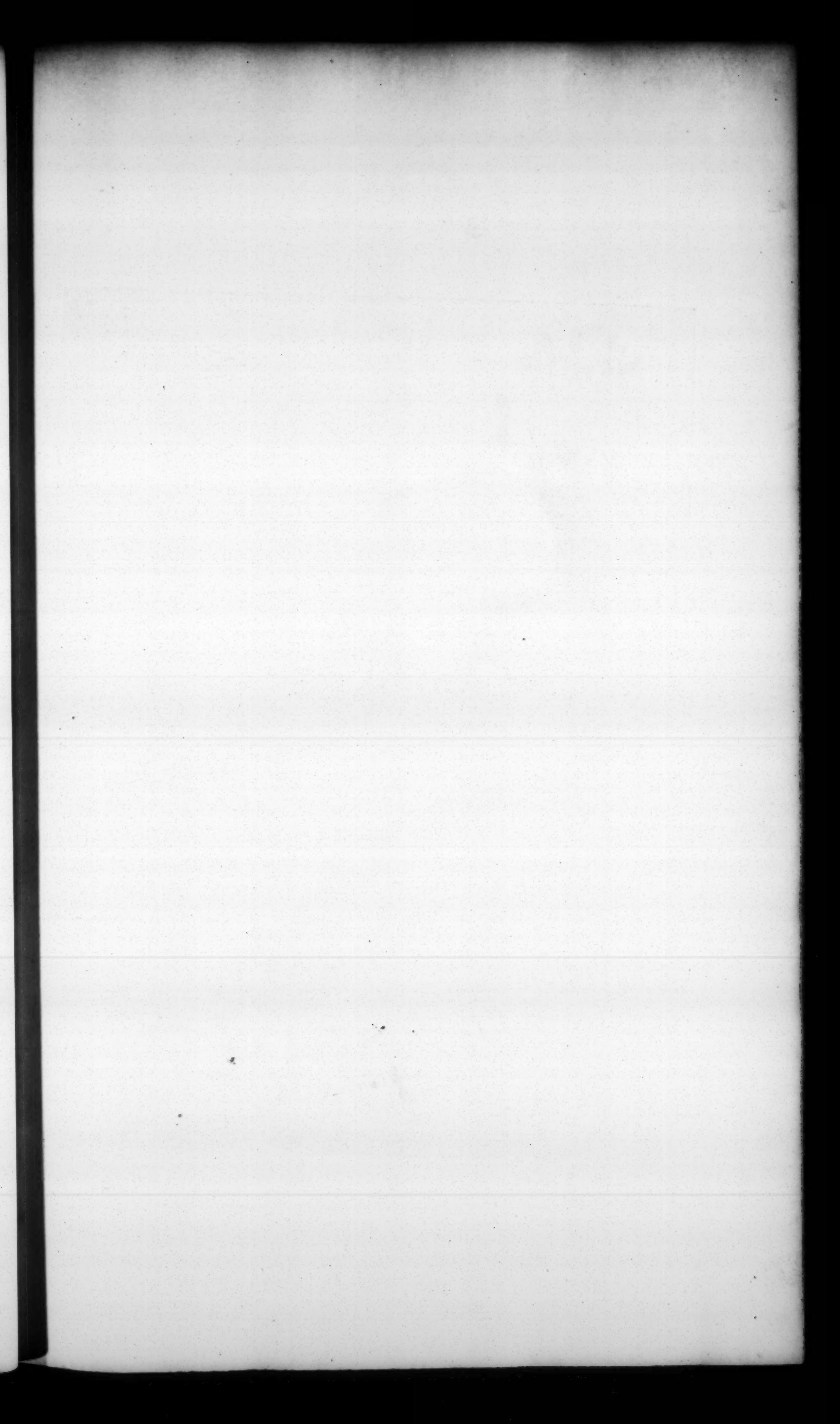
The Song Thrush.

Printed and Engraved by T. Lord, N^o. 12. King St. Bloomsbury.

London. Pub^d as the Act directs, by the Author, August 12. 1791.

The Song-Thrush, or Throstle.

THESE birds are indigenous, and are much esteemed for their note, which is so loud and powerful, that it has been heard for more than half a mile. They perch on the summit of lofty trees, and begin their song soon after christmas, which they continue to the latter part of the summer: and that being moulting season, they cease to sing, because their health is not then so perfect as in the spring; and this, indeed, is the case with most birds. Thrushes may be thought to resemble the Red-wing, given in a former plate; but their nature is quite different. Great numbers are never seen together: they are very shy, and swift in their flight. In cages they may easily be tamed, and rendered familiar. Their common food is grubs and caterpillars: and when they are much distressed by the intense cold the produce of hedges contents them. There is a food called German paste which they eat in cages, and also fig-dust, both which are very good for them. They are often purchased at a guinea a piece.





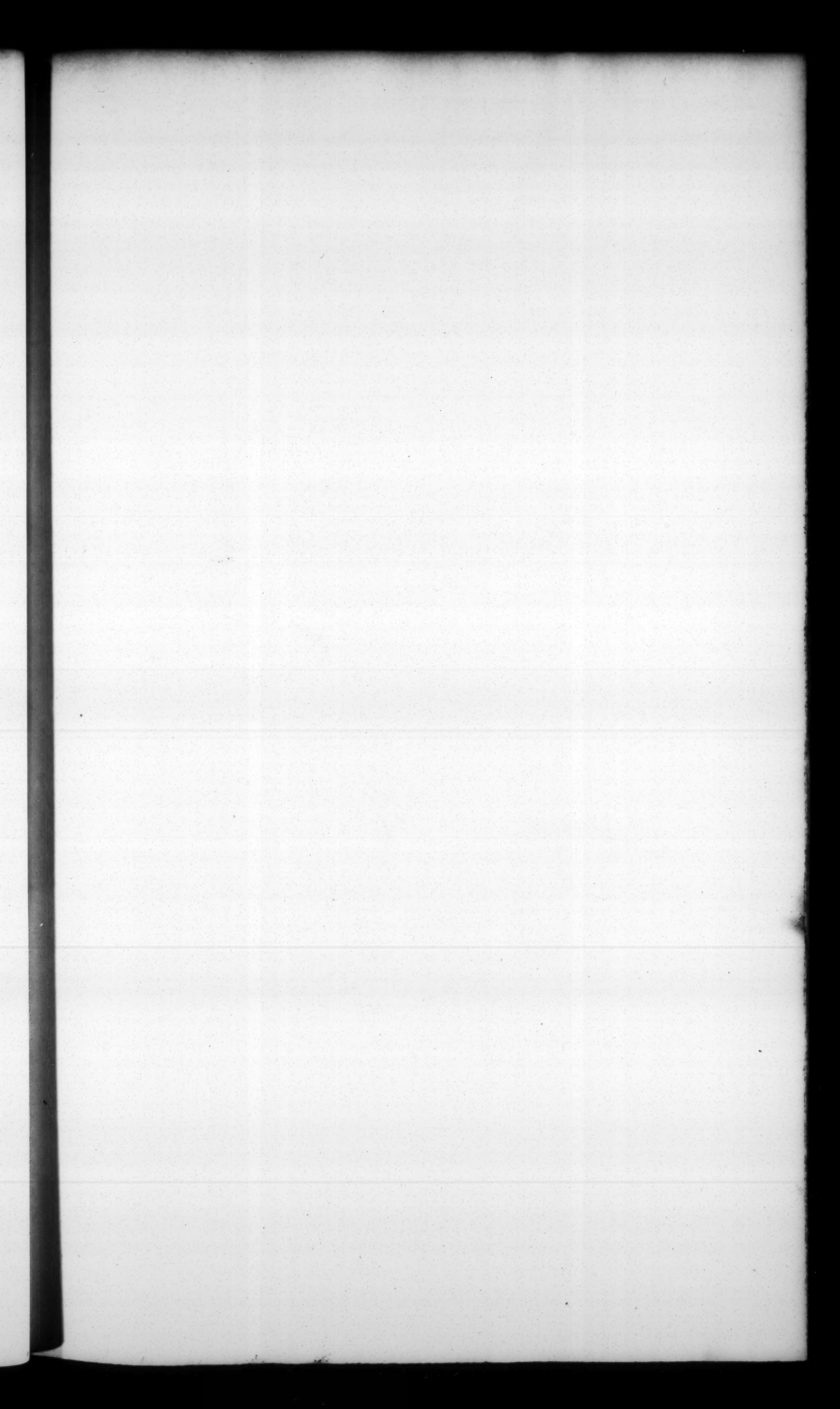
Painted and Engraved by T. Lear, 47, King St. Bloomsbury

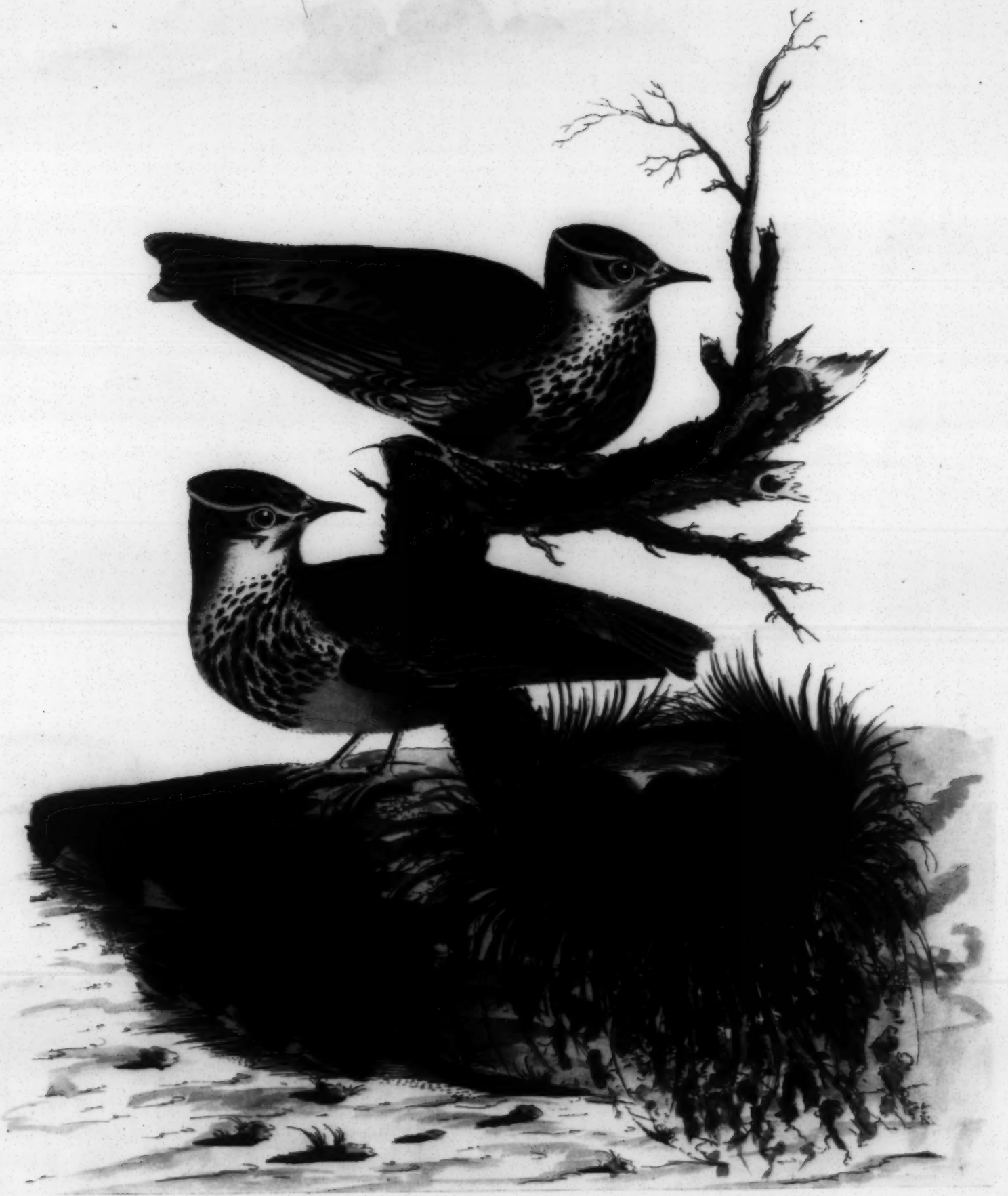
The Hoopoe

London Pub'd as the Act directs by the Author. Sep 11. 1801

The Hoopoe.

THIS bird was shot by John Lord Esq. of Mursley Hall, Buckinghamshire. But as it is a rare and transitory passenger little can be said of its properties. The crest on the head, which is erected and dressed at pleasure; consists of a double row of feathers, of which fifteen are tipped with jet black, as represented. The upper mandible of the bill is not incurvated like that of most other birds, but is flat, and of a high polish: and the tongue is thick and short, as a barley-corn. This bird, being only wounded, was taken alive: and several kinds of food were in vain offered: it partook of none, nor would take the least notice of any. When dead, the fat broiled through the skin, so as to discolour the plumage. Two authors, whose works I have read on the subject of Ornithology, differ very much in their accounts concerning the manner of its building. As the matter is left in obscurity, I prefer silence to any quotation, which perhaps might prove erroneous.



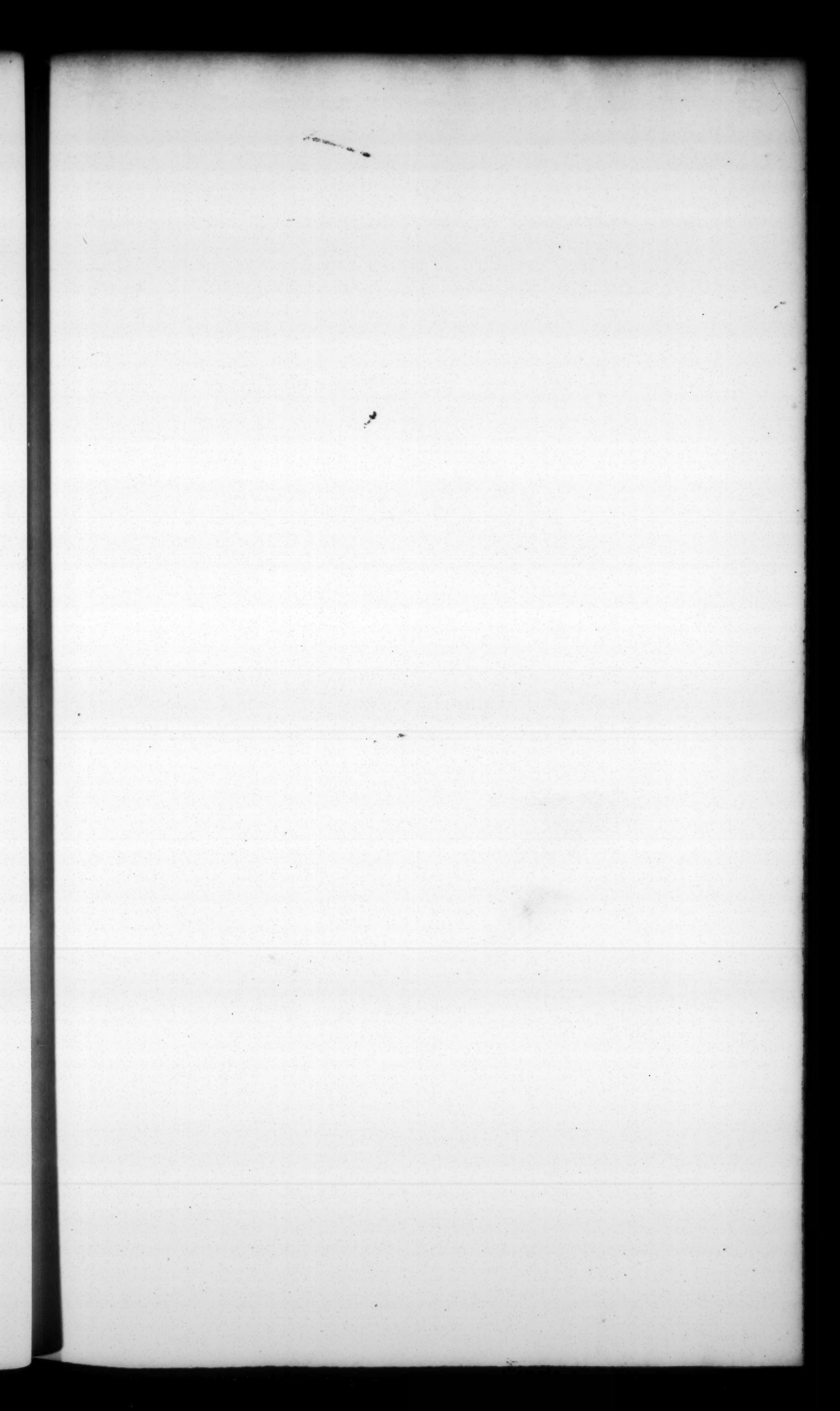


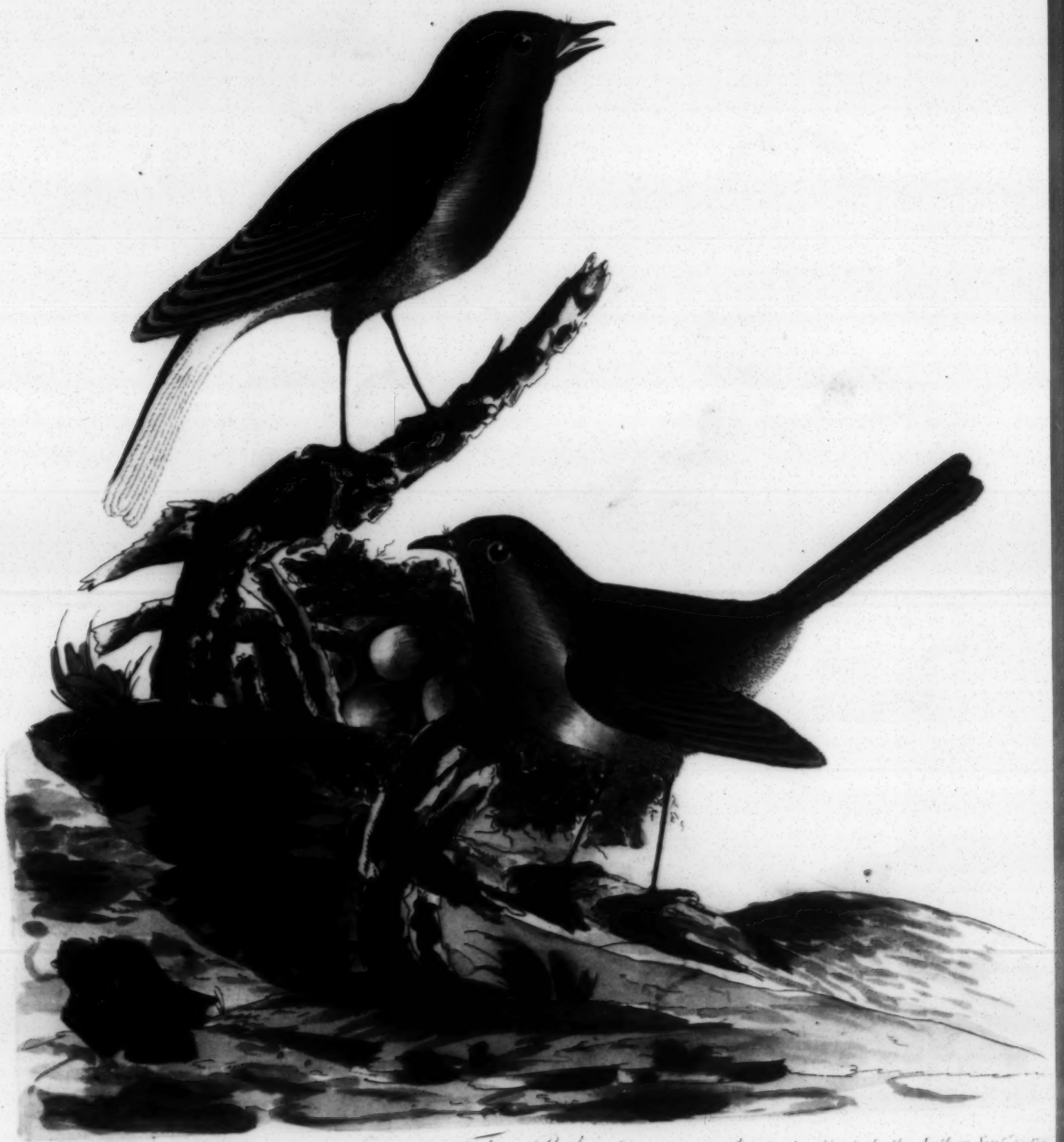
Printed & Engraved by T. Lord, N^o. 2. King St. Bloomsd. The Wood Lark. London. Pub^d as the Act directs by the Author.

The Wood Lark.

THE birds in this number, as in all the past, are delineated as large as the life.

The wood-larks in size are inferior to the sky-larks, and are, when young, very tender, and subject to cramp. Hence it is difficult to rear them: nor indeed does it answer any essential purpose to attempt it: for it is well known that birds caught wild far excel those which are brought up by hand, in the melody of their song, and the beauty of the feathers: so much is nature superior to art in all her operations. The eggs of these birds are six in number, and, as the plate exactly represents them, very dark. Their nest, which is peculiar in its structure, is composed of fine long dried grass, and lined with hair. The usual spot on which they build is by the side of large woods and forests; and their favourite haunts are the plains, and commons near those places. These larks perch upon lofty trees; and from that station, to which their choice appears purposely directed, their song echoes through the resounding wood. Their note is less sonorous, but equal in sweetness to that of the sky-lark. They sing in the night, and as they fly; while the rich variety of their song is very delightful to the ear. The size is the only discriminative quality of the male and female. They feed upon seeds, but, when caged, they should be supplied with clover turf, which they like very much, and which is good for their health. If approached within twenty yards, their nature is to skulk rather than to take wing, like others of the feathered tribe.





Painted and Engraved by T. Ford, N^o. 11. King St. Blooms^d. *The Robin*, London. Pub^d as the Act directs by the Author. Sep^r. 1799.

The Robin, or Red Breast.

THESE birds, although sociable and familiar with mankind, seldom meet one another without a reciprocal challenge. Their hostile disposition is indicated by a peculiar note in their song. The challenge is soon accepted, and a battle ensues. In winter they often become domesticated, and take refuge by our fire-sides in the inclement season. I remember one of these social birds, with only one leg, which paid an annual visit to the house for many successive seasons. The poets not unfrequently celebrate this Bird. We meet with the following picturesque description in the favourite bard of nature

one alone

The Red-breast, sacred to the household Gods,
Wifely regardful of th'embroiling sky,
In joyless fields, and thorny thickets, leaves
His shivering mates, and pays to trusted man
His annual visit. Half afraid, he first
Against the window beats ; then, brisk, alights
On the warm hearth ; then, hopping o'er the floor,
Eyes all the smiling family askance,
And pecks, and starts, and wonders where he is ;
Till more familiar grown, the table crumbs
Attracts his slender feet.

These birds build earlier than any other : but as the nest is most accurately described in the plate it is needless to employ the attention of the reader by dwelling upon particulars. It must not however be unobserved that in the manner and place of building they are not always consistent and

P L A T E X V .

regular; their nests are found in the holes of old walls of decayed buildings, and in saw-pits. They follow the gardener as he digs up the mould, and I have remarked them pecking for the reptiles before the spade could possibly be put a second time into the ground. Their note is cheerful and pleasing, and they begin their song at that season when that of other birds decline: and their favourite time of delighting us with their warbled strains is in the dawn of day, and the close of evening: so that it would almost appear as if kind nature had destined them to cheer our gloomy moments in that dreary period of the year, when the soft melody of the grove is dumb. They will sing within very few hours after they are caught, if turned loose into a room; but, if caged, not before two or three days; and when their confinement is become a little more tolerable, they will sing by candle light. The country people think it impious to destroy these birds—certainly it is unkind and inhospitable.

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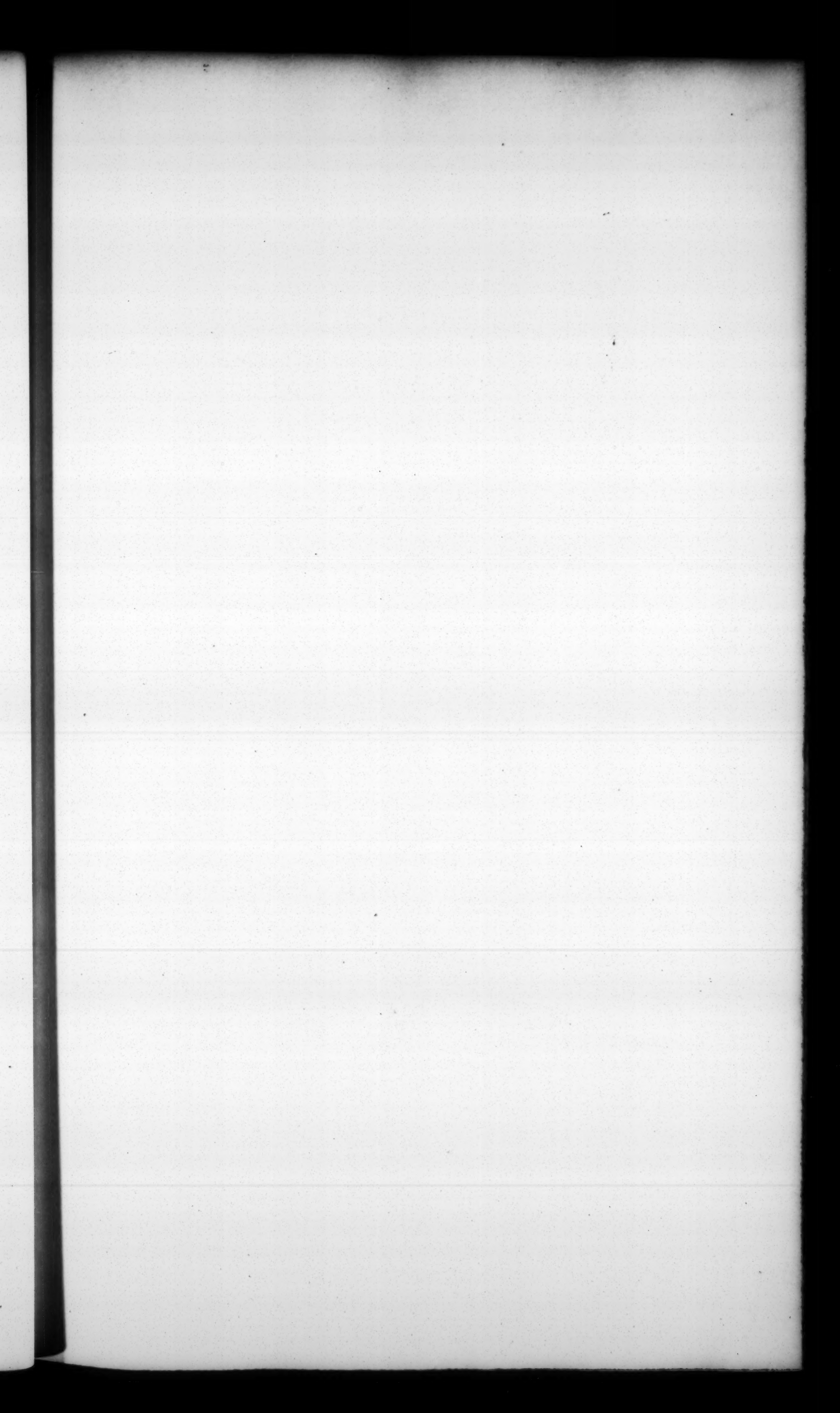


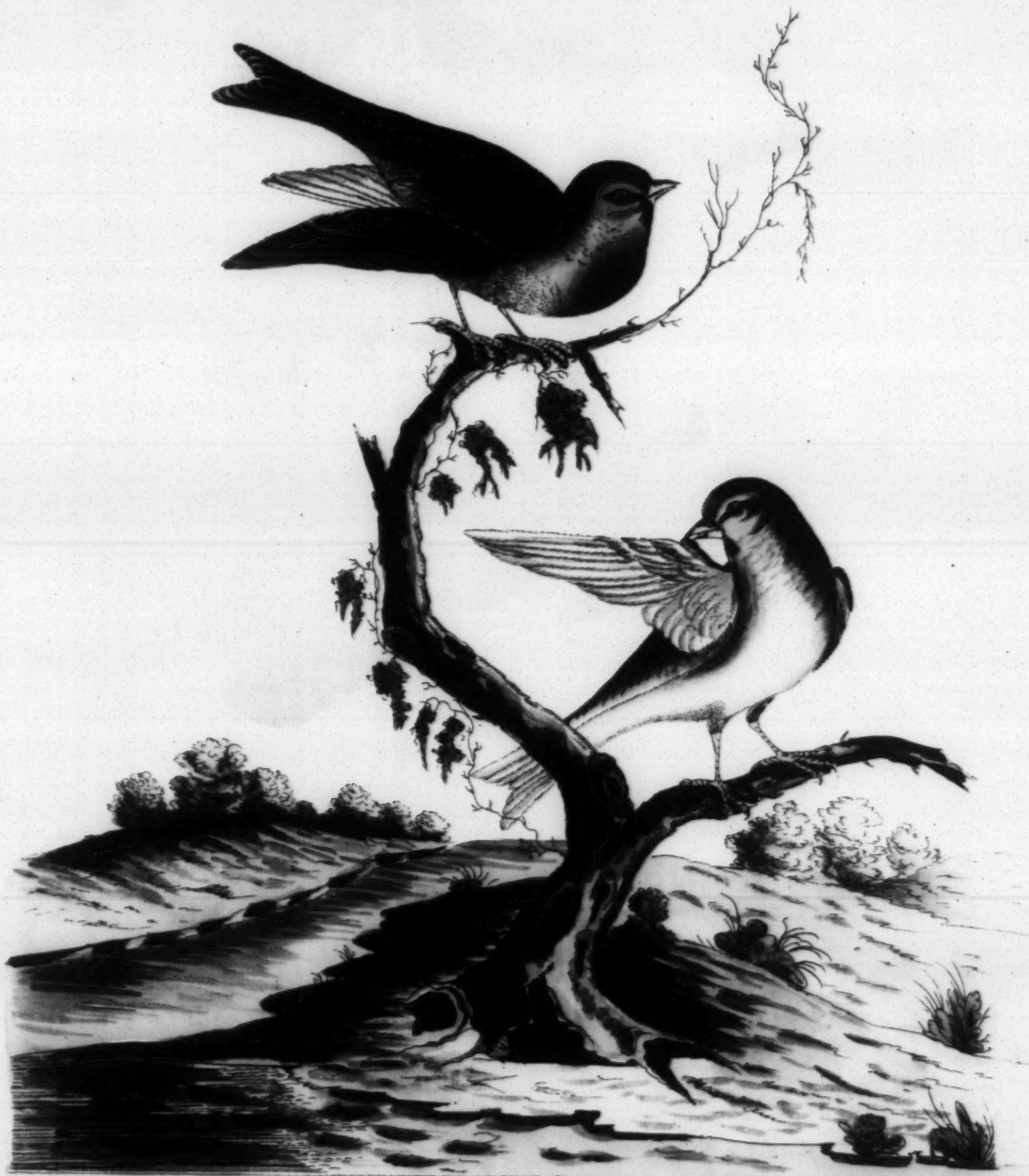
Painted and Engraved by T. Leed.

The Owl, Pub. Oct. 1800, by the Author, No. 1, Maiden Lane, Cor. 2d St.

The Madge Owlet, or Owl.

THESE birds are scarce, and seldom seen but near large forests and chaces. The original of this portrait was shot near Whaddon Chace, in Buckinghamshire. They frequent the most solitary and secret places, and appear only in the night. They deposite their eggs in some hollow tree, which are two in number, of a white colour, and as large as those of a small bantam hen. Their young, being unable to provide for themselves, remain in the nest much longer than other birds. They feed on mice, and other small animals.

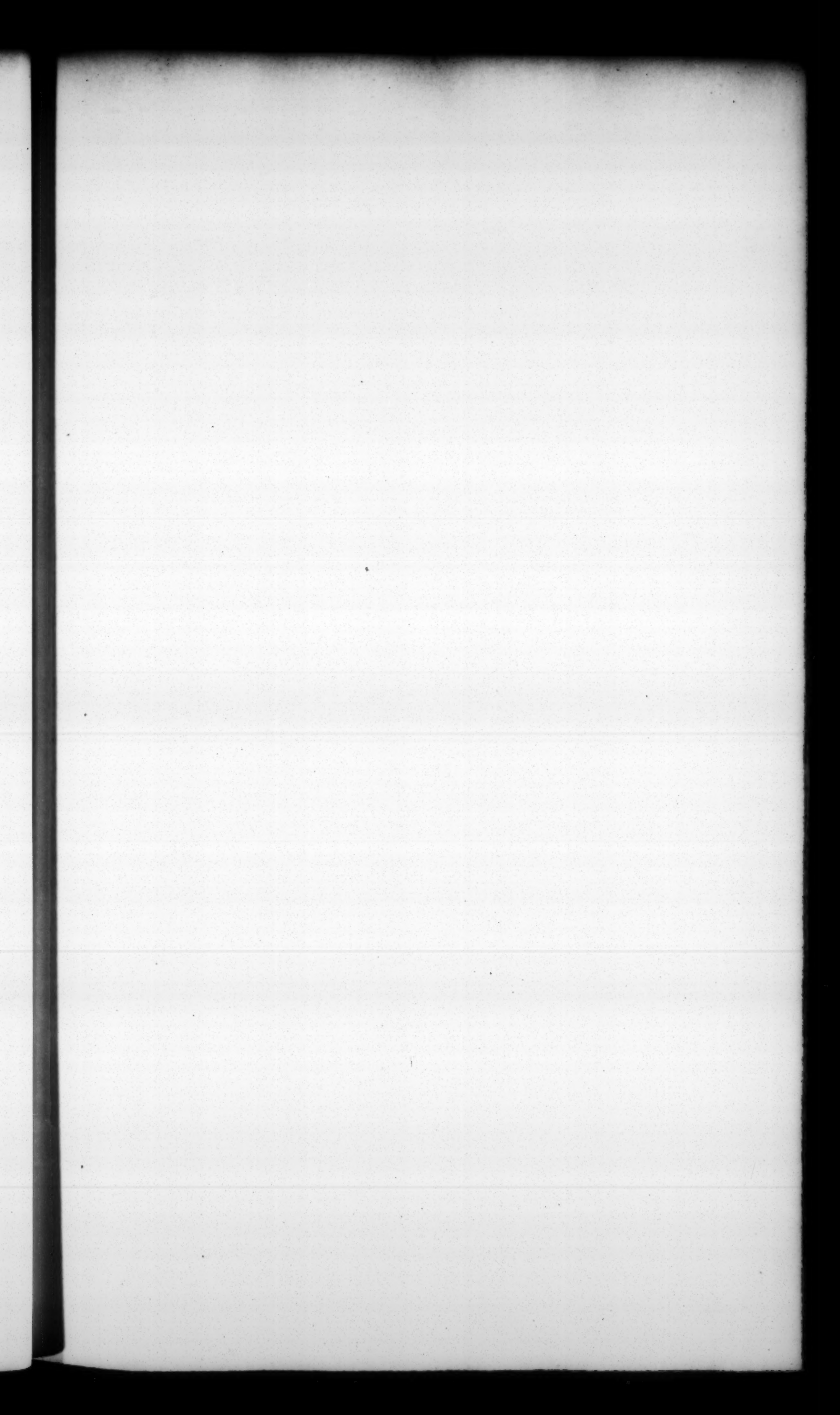


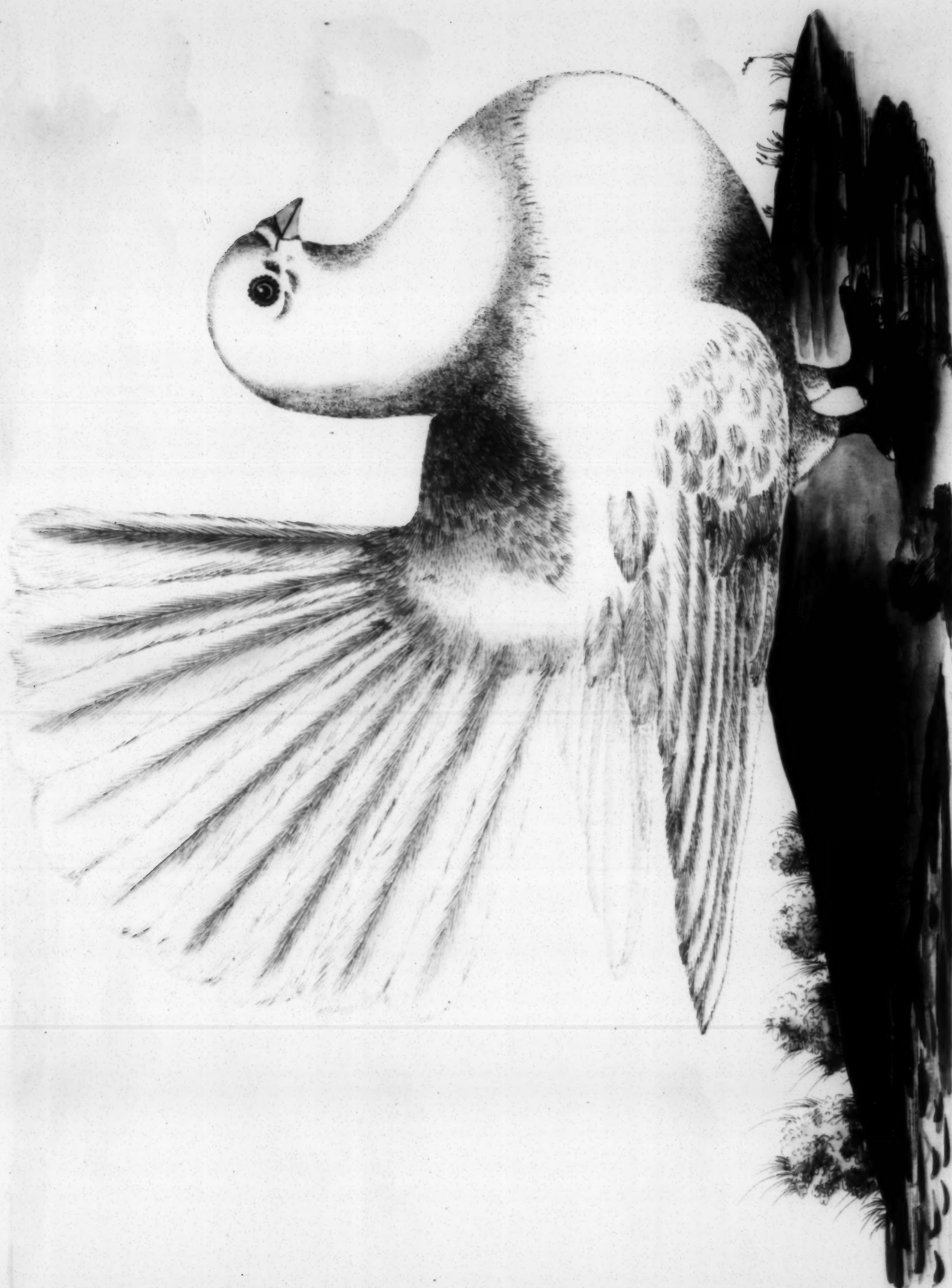


Painted & Engraved by T. Lord, No. Maiden Lane, Col. Geo. The Red Pole, London. Pub. as the Act directs. Oct. 24. 1841.

The Red-Pole.

THESE birds migrate from the south of France, and visit this country in great numbers. In their passage they have been known to alight, for rest, on the yards and rigging of ships. They are frequently to be met with in the London market; but are not held in much estimation. They have no song, but are docile, and may be taught to open a box for their food. People generally purchase them as a decoy bird, to catch others of their kind. Few, in the numbers that come over, have arrived at their full beauty: it is therefore with no small pleasure the author presents to the public a portrait, drawn from a living and perfect bird.





Pub^d by the Author J^{no}. Warden Lane Cor^d Barⁿ Oct^r 12. 1791.

The 'Frigate'.

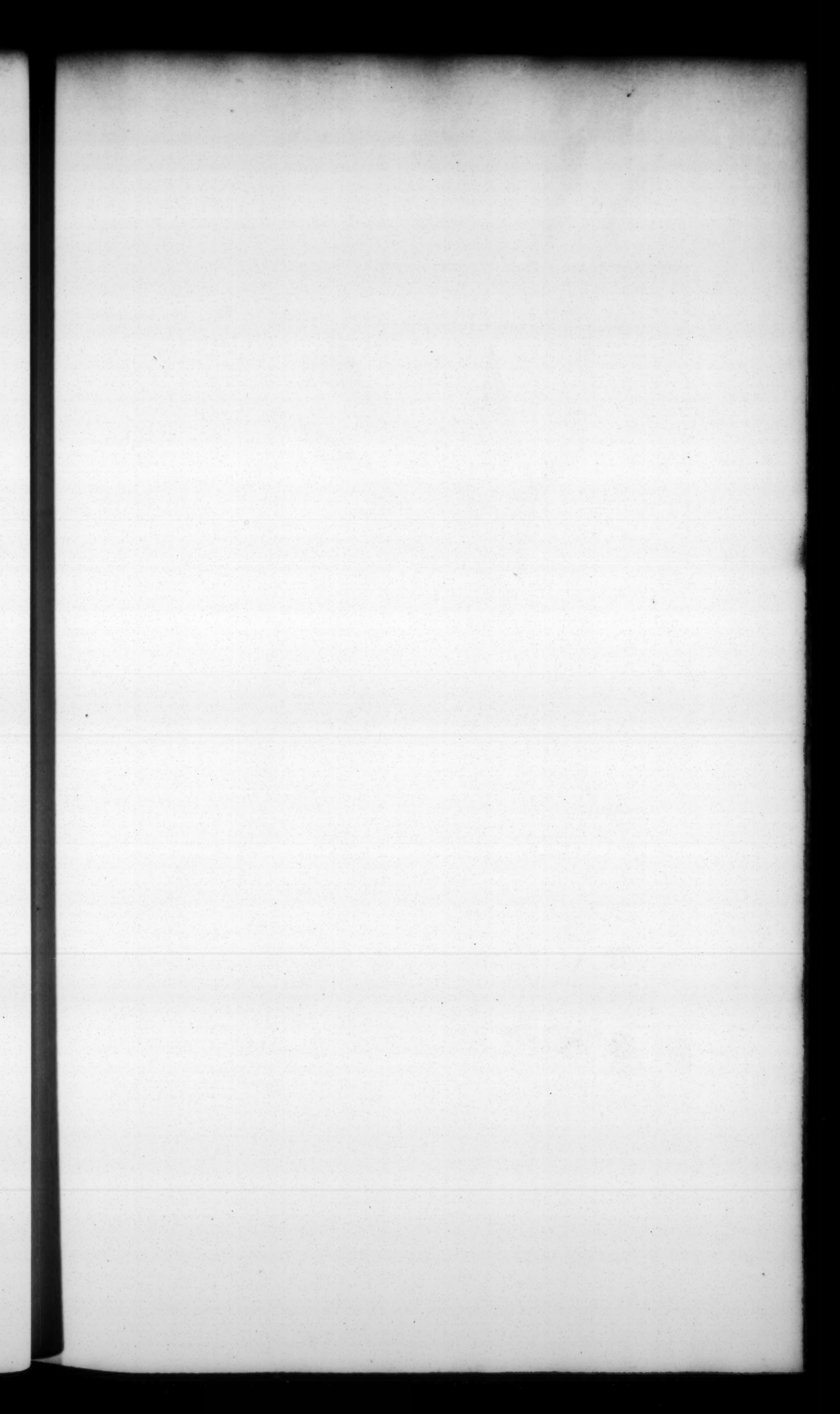
Painted and Engraved by W. Lloyd

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The Fantail, or Shaker.

OF these birds are various sorts, which differ only in colour. The carriage of their head is very majestic and flatly. To be of any value, their bill must be short; and in their tail must be a double row, which must contain thirty-two feathers at least. They lay white eggs, and sit eighteen days. The male and female sit alternately, as it was remarked of the Jacobine in a former plate. They do not in general rear their young so well as the common pidgeon.

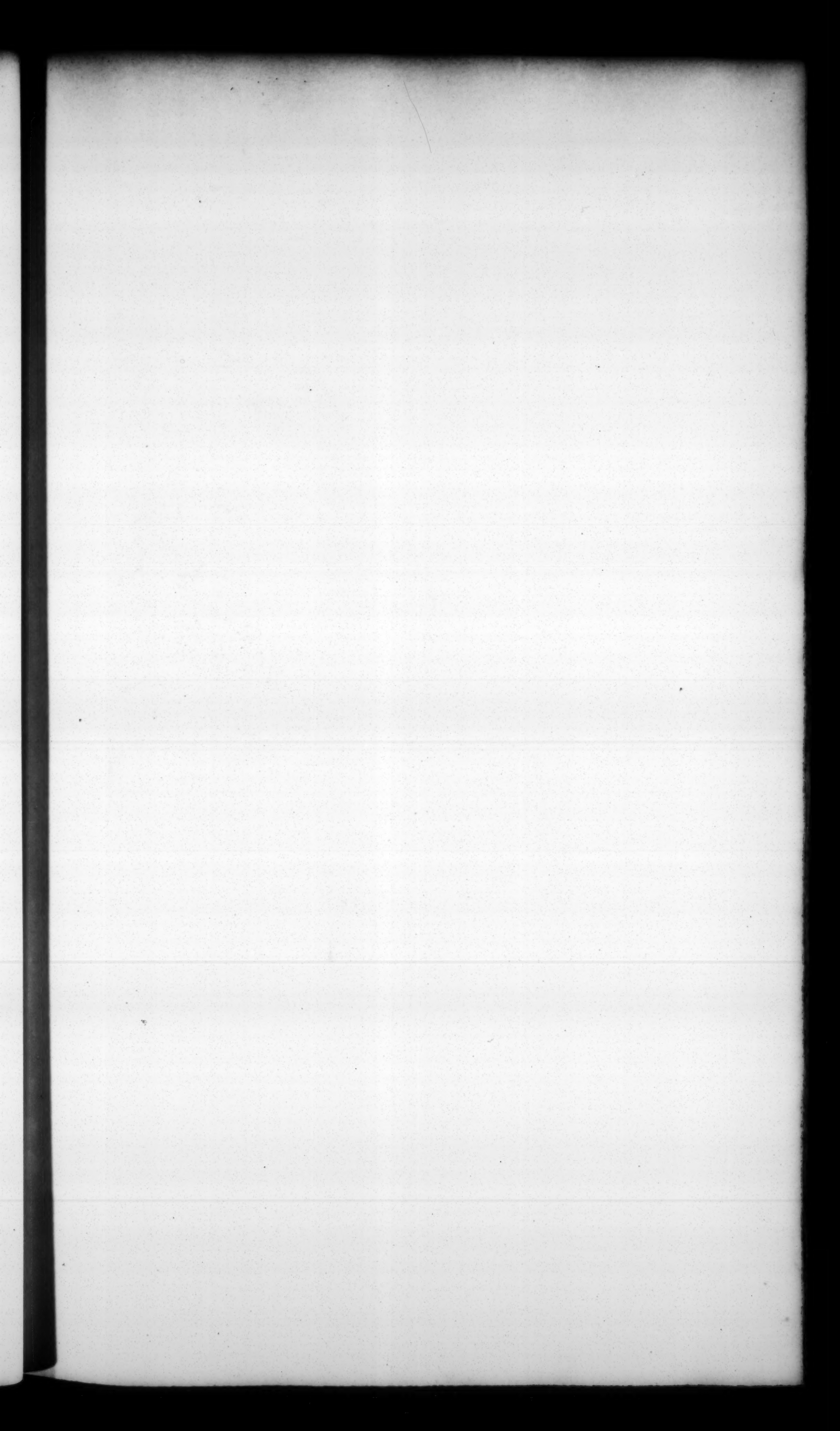




Printed & Engraved by T. Agnew & Sons, Manchester. The Red-headed Linnets. London: Pubd by the Author, 1850.

The Red Headed Linnet.

THIS bird is very common and well known by the generality of the world, it is much admired for its song, which is sweet and melodious. These birds, like many others, are in their full beauty the third year, but when caged, and moulted, loses the red on the head and breast, which they never more recover. They build in furze about three feet from the ground, and their nest is easily found, for whilst the hen sits, the male is frequently perched on some twigs at a small distance facing the nest, pouring forth his soft song. He likewise feeds the female while she sits, their food consists of any sort of small seeds. They lay five eggs, the nest is composed of small dried roots lined with wool. After harvest, when breeding season is over, they flock together in vast numbers on the lands, to feed on what remains. They settle by hundreds on one tree, and are frequently so numerous as to cover the whole top of it, where they jointly unite in a general chorus, and what is not a little singular they periodically attend at some clear stream for their drink.





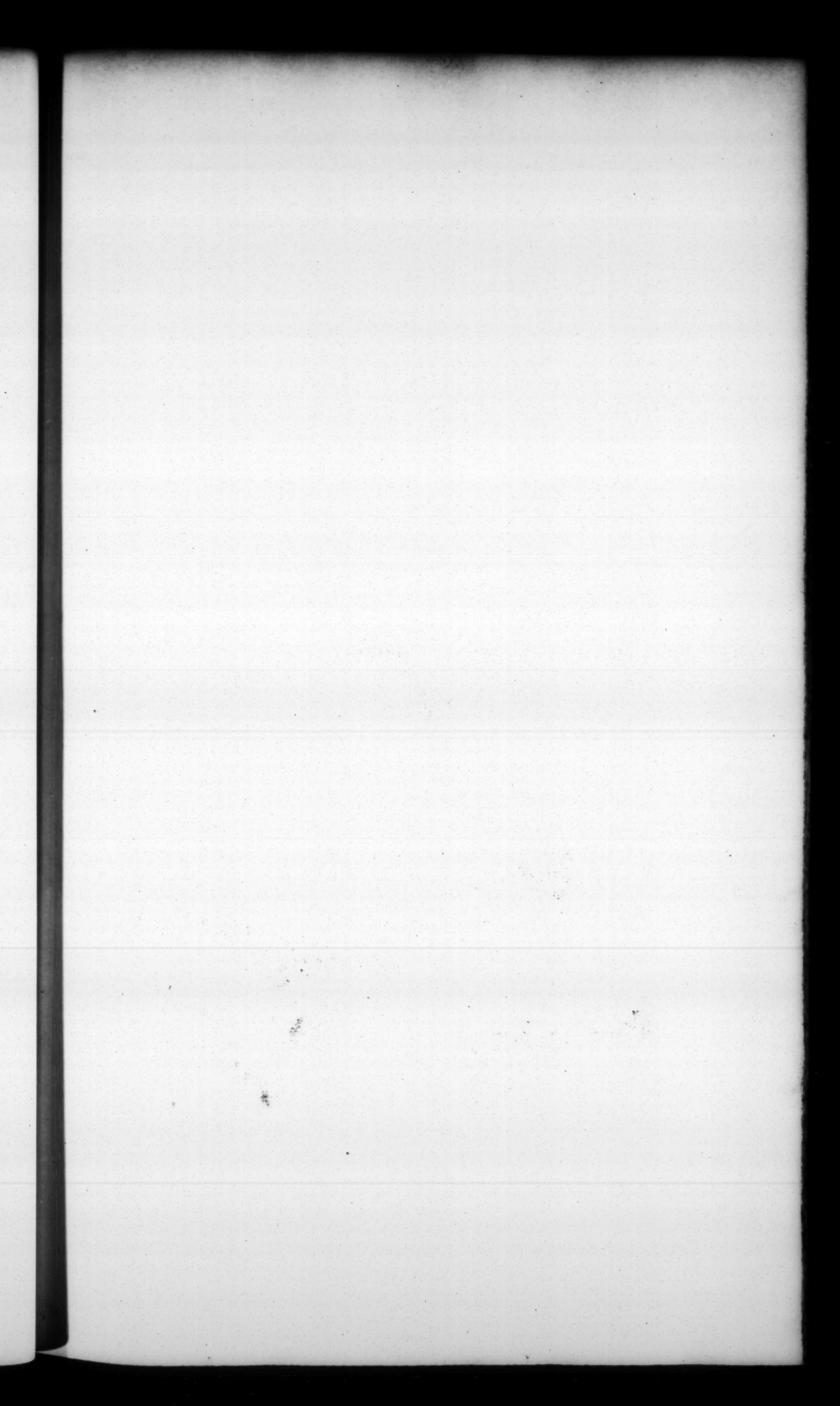
Not a new bird by the Author in Maiden Lane Cove Garden

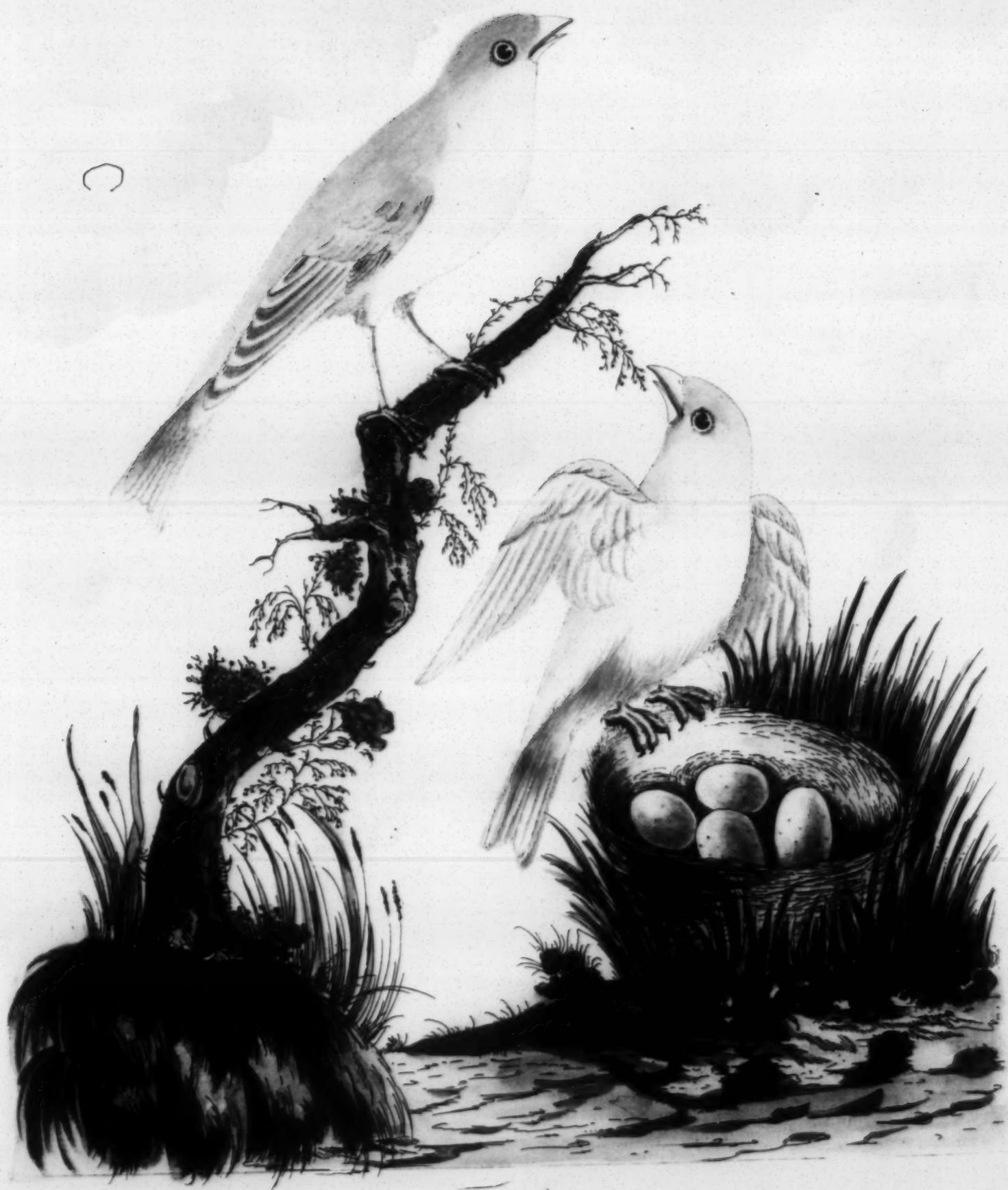
The Fieldfare

and Engraved by T. L. L.

The Field Fare

IS a bird of passage, and accompanies the Red Wing but associates with no other Bird, except the Starling which will sometimes intrude into his company. It visits us in the winter in great flocks, and feeds on the produce of the hedges. It is a very loose feathered bird, but rich in colour, and are very shy and difficult to approach with a gun. The severer the Frost is, the higher they are in flesh. They are good eating, but no way delicious. When they rise at the approach of a gun they soar so extremely quick and high as to be soon beyond the reach of shot.



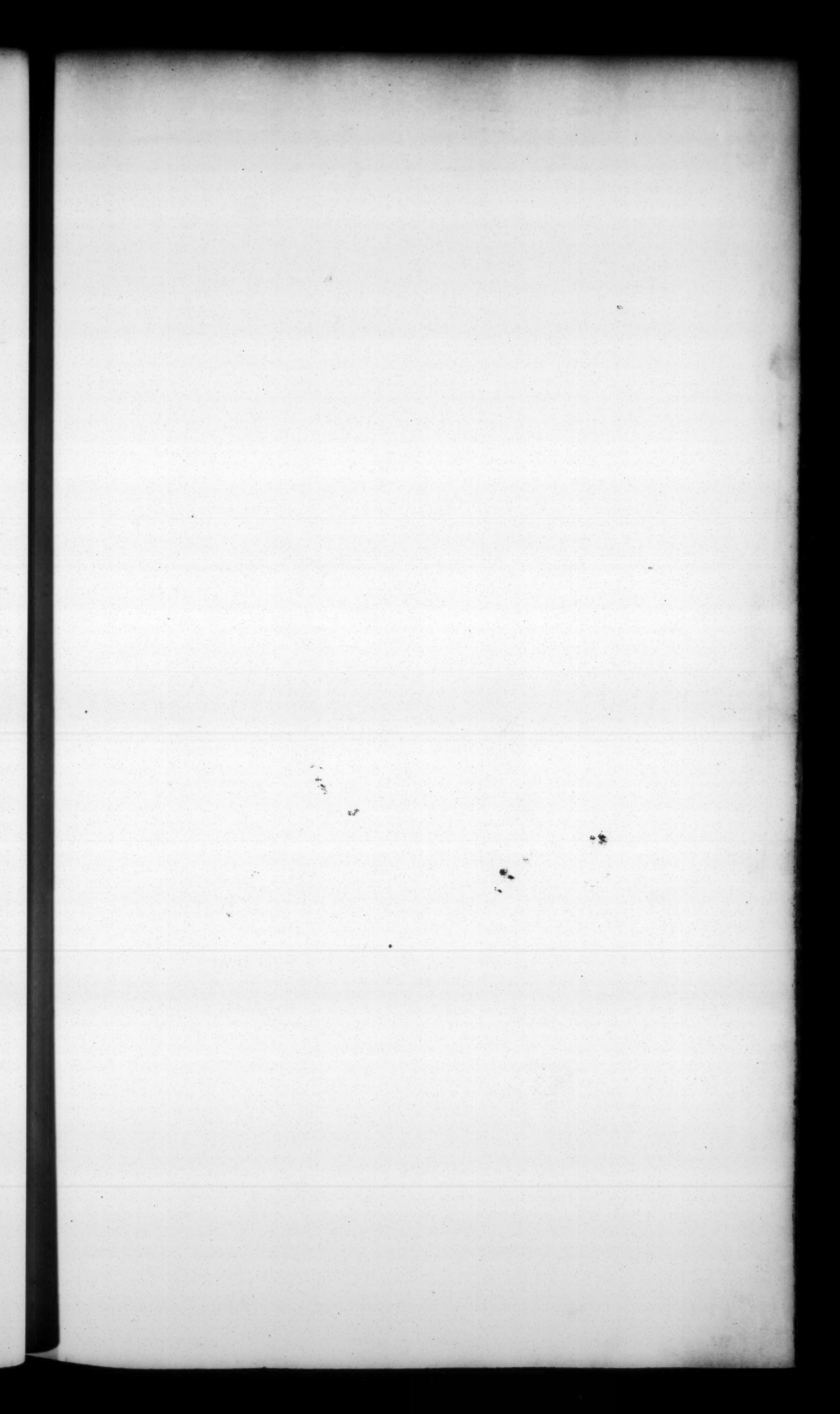


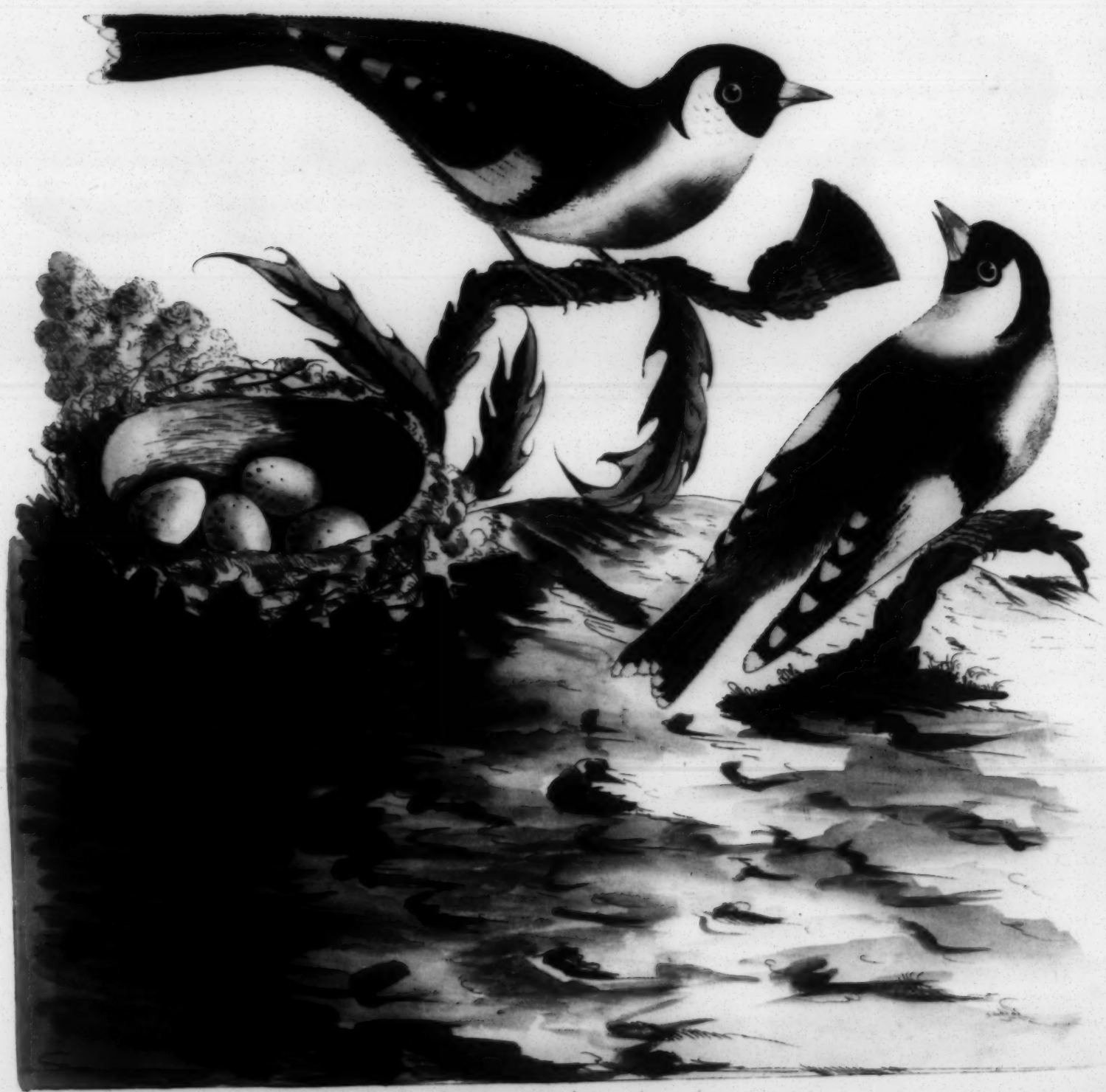
Painted and Engraved by T. Lord

The Canary with her eggs by the Author Nic. Maudslayi del.

The Common Canary Bird.

THESE birds are natives of the Canary Islands, but numbers of them are bred in this kingdom, Colchester and Ipswich are the two principal places, and the birds bred in these towns, are much stronger, and larger, than those brought from Germany, although several thousands are brought over every season. They are bred in barns and rooms in which are fixed boxes and baskets for that purpose, and are supplied with deer's hair, of which, together with moss and dead grass, they compose their nests. They will build three or four times in a season, and lay from three to five eggs each time. They sit fourteen days reckoning from the day their first egg is laid. The female leaves them generally at the expiration of fourteen days, when the male bird attends them another week in the nest at which time they commonly leave their nest, though not able wholly to provide for themselves, and follow the male bird who is their sole provider until they can take care of themselves. Frequent instances have been known of the first brood driving out the female from her second nest by which means they destroy the second brood. During nesting season the birds should be supplied with hard-boiled eggs, bread and milk, biscuits, or bread-pudding all which must be often changed. In a future plate I shall give the true fancy bird, and a more full account of their customs and manners.





Engraved by J. Lord

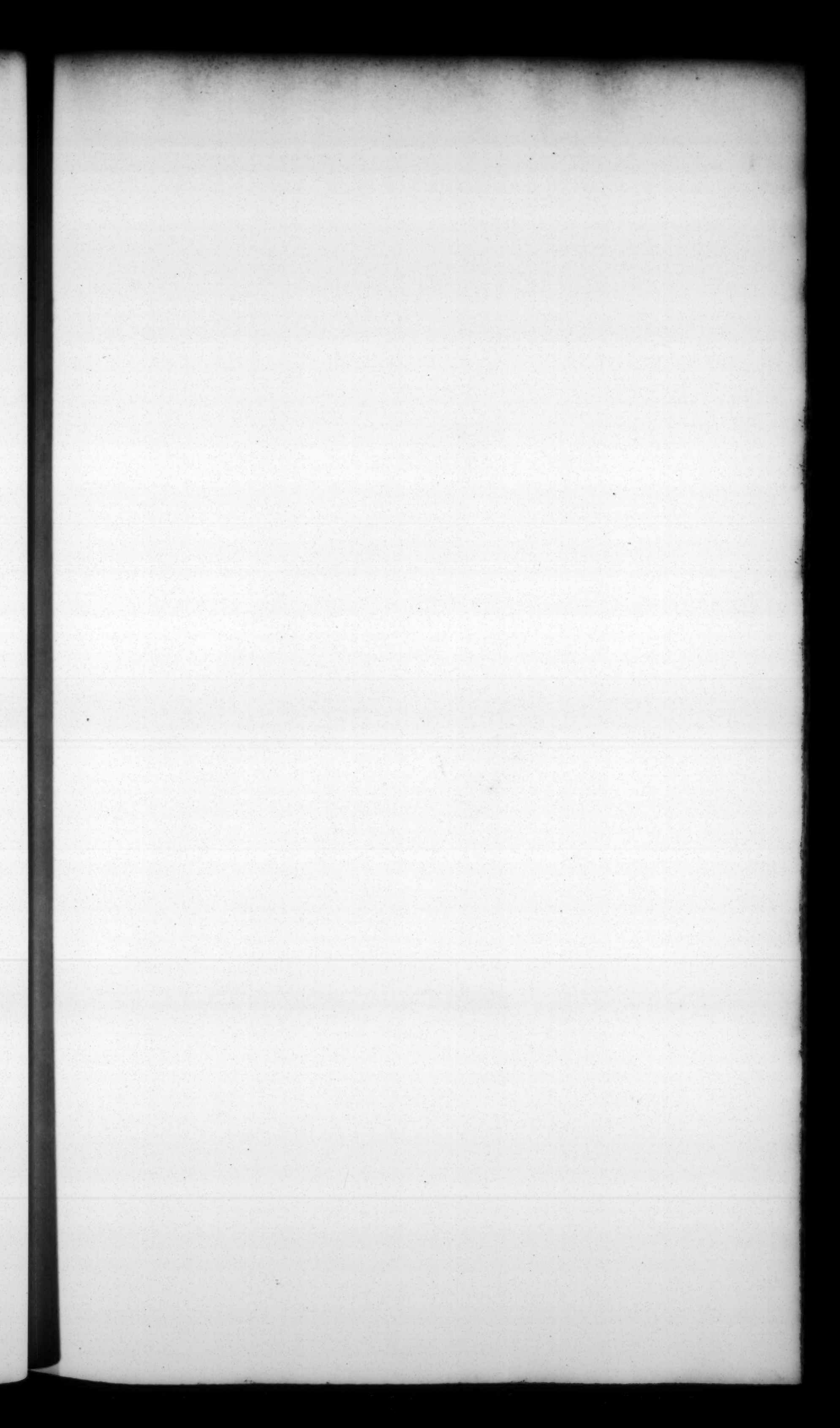
The Gold Finch

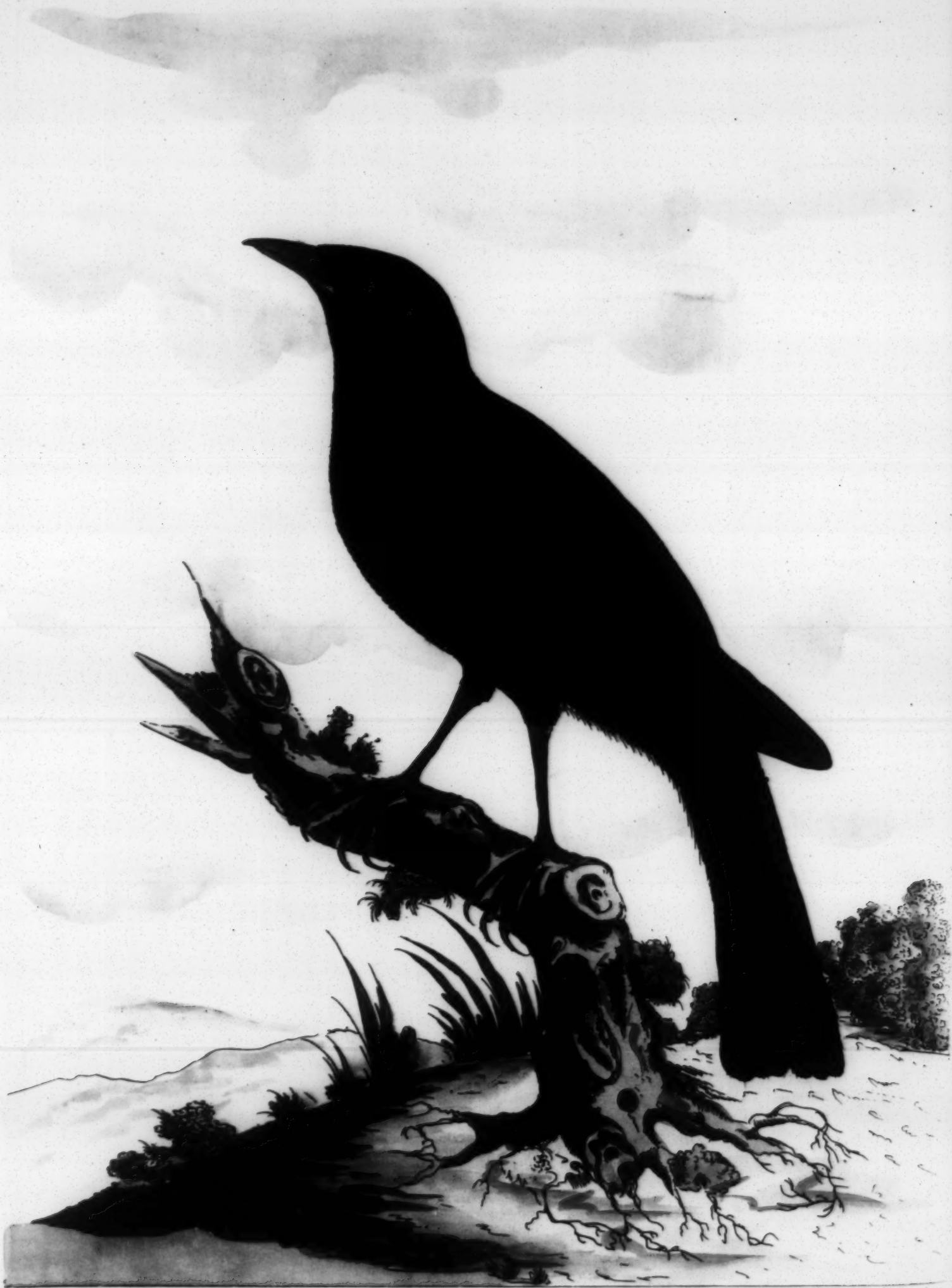
Printed by N. Maiden Lane Cor. 1771

The Gold Finch.

IS a Bird universally admired both for its song and variety of colour. It is a familiar and docile bird, easily taught to draw water and open a box for its food, extremely delicate, and tender and will not bear the least handling. I have known many instances of their struggling whilst changing cages, which struggle has broken a blood vessel and by bleeding at the mouth they have expired instantly. There are two sorts of these birds the larger and smaller, the larger one far surpasses the other in colour but the smaller one is more excellent for its song. Many have not the light spots at the end of the tail and wing which are observed in this plate. Another mark which adds much to their value is the red spot which some have at the back of their head, which bird is distinguished by the name of the Red-Ear. Great flocks are to be met with at the latter end of the year. The bird catchers are frequently known to take two hundred at one throw. They make it a point to kill all the hens because if they escaped they would be shy of the net and prevent others from being taken. They lay five eggs and sit three or four times in a season. In winter they haunt the barn-doors whilst the threshers are at work to feed on the seeds which are separated from the corn. They are remarkably fond of thistles and are always to be met with where they grow. The male differs from the female in brilliancy of colour, and is by far the richer of the two; the black on the pinion is a distinguished mark, as the hen is never so dark in that part.

1777





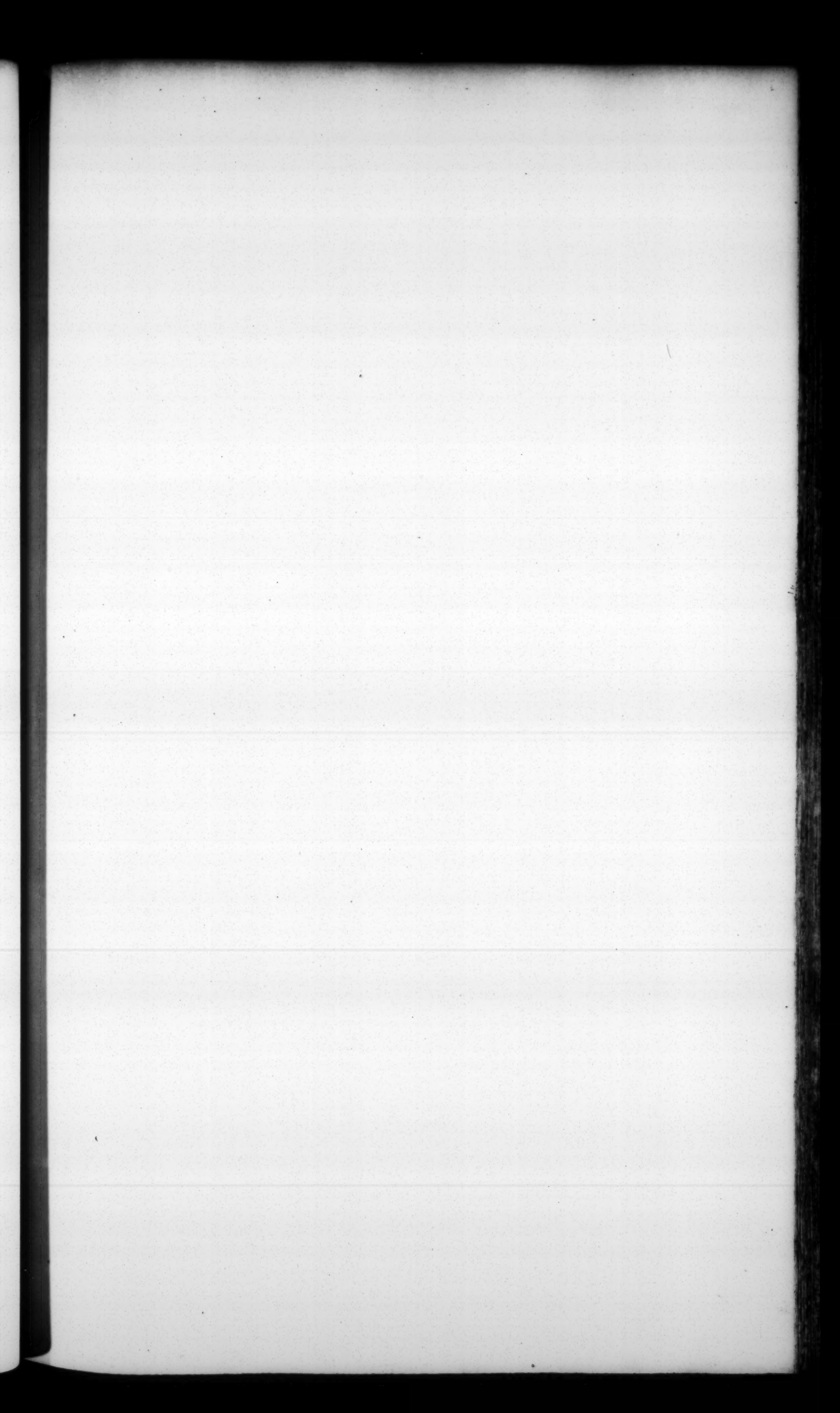
London B6th by the Author & the Art direct Dec^r 14 79.

The Male Black Bird

N^o 1 Maiden Lane Cov^t Garden

The Male Black-Bird

IS much smaller and genteeler than the female although long in feather. They are frequently shot and brought to the London markets with other small birds for eating. It is a close feathered bird, his song is short but much admired, it seldom lasts longer than three or four months, which is in breeding season, during which time he is to be seen singing on some branch near his nest which is easily to be found by observing him as he always sits facing it. They generally build within three or four feet of the ground. When most other birds are silent at the close of evening, the Black-bird sings until the sun is set.





Engr'd by J. Lord

The Black Bird

N^o 11 Maiden Lane Court Gar^den Dec^r

The Female Black-Bird.

THIS Bird differs much from the male both in colour and size, is of a solitary nature never associating with any other than her own species she frequents retired places, remote lanes, ditches, and dark walks. In such places her nest is to be found it is composed of dirt and cow-dung lined with the same mixed with dirty straw, which when matted together and dry is hard and solid as a peice of clay. They lay five eggs rather small; they feed in the winter on hips and haws, and grubs of all sorts. In the summer they feed on small fruit and are destructive enemies to gardens to chérries in particular, and are bold adventurers in pursuit of them.



T. Lord N^o Maiden Lane Cut G^o . . . Magpie London P^o by the Author Jan^r 14 1792

The Magpie

IS one of our most common birds, and is by many supposed to be only black and white, which is erroneous, as they shew the most brilliant purple, blue, and green, like that displayed in the neck of our Pheasant. The Magpie is a mischievous and destructive bird, for when they become familiar and are at liberty, they will pick up every thing that is in their power to carry, and deposit in some secret place, whither they will put every article if there be an hundred. They are extremely attentive to observe if they are noticed whilst thus employed, and have couched, under a seeming disregard, a watchful eye, for fear of being discovered; the pleasure to them appears to be the doing of it slyly; and with respect to their destructive qualities, a Hen or Duck cannot sit in peace where one of these birds inhabit, for they will encounter with either, and never leave them until they have accomplished their design of stealing the eggs or chicks, and by these means they will destroy whole broods if not timely prevented. They are a bird of all others that will excel in talking if taught early. There are two sorts of these birds, the larger and smaller; the one here given is the larger sort, but is reduced for the conveniency of bringing it into the plate; the original measures nineteen inches from the point of the bill to the tip of the tail, and ten inches and an half round the breast. These build in trees, the smaller sort in hedges; their nest is composed of rugged thorny sticks, arched over the top, but not so closely as to repel the weather; it is lined with cow-hair and wool, which I have observed them collecting from the backs of the cows and sheep. They lay seven eggs. Another particular in which they differ from other birds is, that they have a sort of kell or skin which they cast from under their eyelid over the eye at pleasure.



1. Kinglet. Maine. June. 1847.

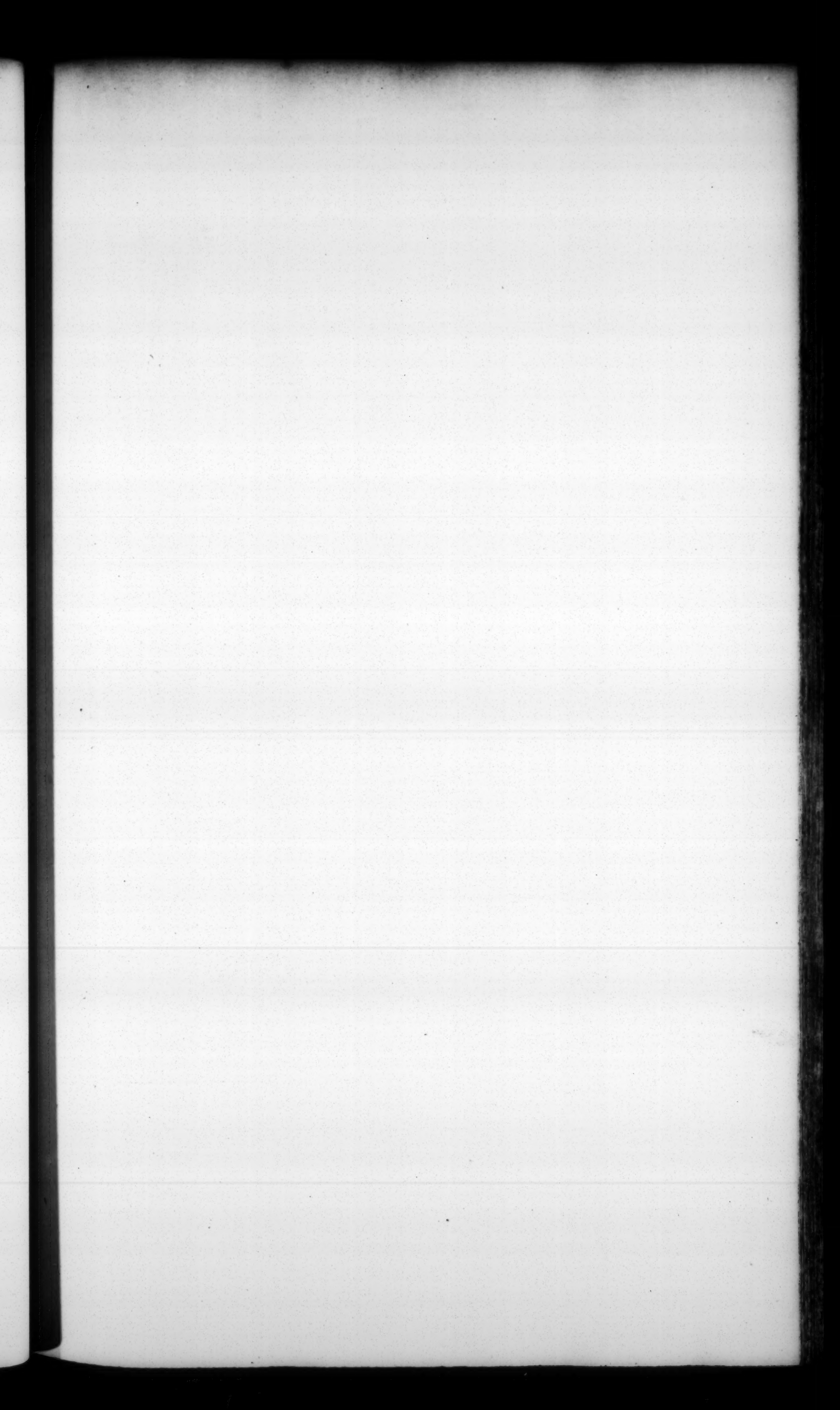
Page 1

London. Published by the Author. No. 1.

The Pipet.



IS a small bird, and has some resemblance of the Tit-Lark. It is a bird of no song, neither has it any property which might render it valuable. They build chiefly by the side of a bank; the nest is composed of dried grass, lined with the same intermixed with hair. They lay five eggs, and feed on small seed of any kind. It is a bird of so little consequence as to be known but to a few; their number is not great, neither do they associate with any other birds, but are to be met with by the side of forests and woods.





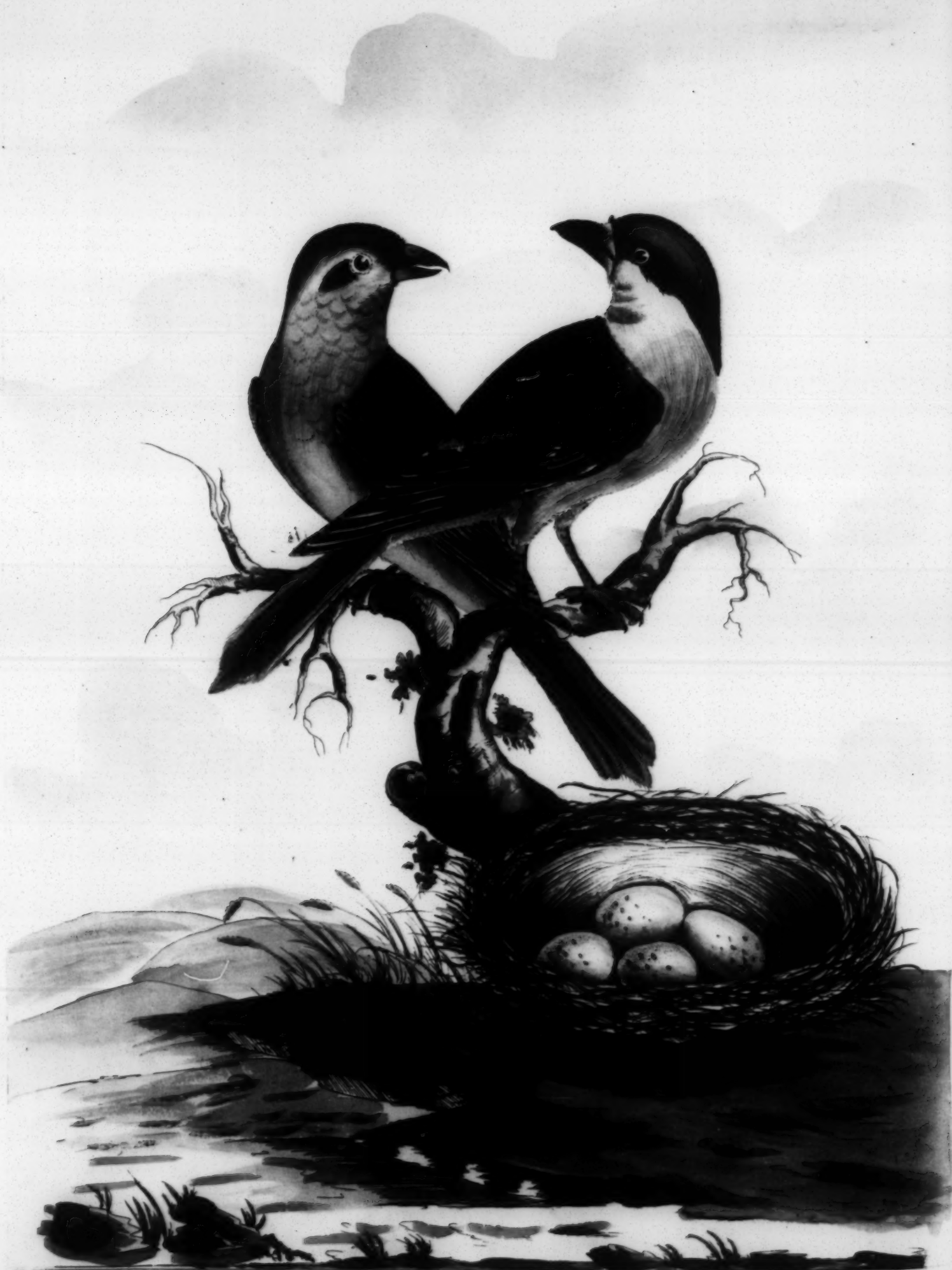
T. Lord. No. 1. Maidens Lane. Cov. Garden

My Lark

London. Pub'd by the Author. Jan'y 14 1792

The Sky-Lark

THIS is a bird in the highest estimation for its melodious song and length of note, in which particular none excel them. They begin their song very early in the spring and continue it all the summer. They usher in the day break with their harmonious song, and whilst singing soar so prodigiously as to be very soon out of sight, though not of hearing; they frequently fall down as if dead, or motionless, closing their wings until they come within a very small distance of the ground, when they will expand them and fly some paces near the surface of the earth before they settle. An observation worthy of notice is, that they never settle near their nest, but have from it a track or run issuing some distance, at the end of which they generally settle, and none but those who are perfectly acquainted with this stratagem can perceive them running and sculking along this tract to their nest. They build three or four times in a season, and lay five eggs. It is customary to take the old ones with their young as they will feed them untill they are able to provide for themselves. When breeding season is over they flock to the lower countries until the severity of the snow drives them to the downs. Dunstable is a place of note for them, and great numbers of them are caught there to supply the London markets. Their food is small seed, and they are partially fond of grass; those who keep them should supply them with a turf constantly; many supply them with a food called German Paste, but I have known them live ten years on common feeds, as hemp, &c. with a turf.



Printed and Engraved by T. Lord

Butcher Bird

Pub^d Feb^y 14 1796, the Author N^o 1. Maiden Lane Cor^r Sth

The Butcher-Bird

IS one of those which pays his annual visit to us about the month of May, and stays until nesting season is over, he makes choice of some remote place for his abode, and, if not destroyed, will come to the same spot the next year; his nest is easily found as he seldom leaves the spot for any long time. It is a dull stupid bird and not fond of moving far. It will build two or three times in a season, the young ones also continue near the same place, their nest is composed of dried rubbishing grass, lined with the same, and intermixed with hair; they lay five eggs, of a dusky grey, as described in the plate. As soon as building season is over, and the young ones strong enough for flight, we see no more of them until the following May. It is a bird of no song, nor any particular value. I have frequently remarked their mode of feeding, and observed them sitting on a tree, regardless of all around them, and on a sudden dart down to their food, and instantly reinstate themselves on the bough to eat what they have caught, this they repeat when they see their intended food, which is caterpillars, beetles, grubs, spiders, &c. Being a species of carnivorous bird they are never made choice of for the table.



Pl. Feb. 4 1892 by T. Lord

Spotted Woodpecker.

N. H. Auden Lane Col. Gar.

The Spotted Woodpeckers

ARE never to be met with but in pairs, we have but few of them and they are very seldom to be seen. They build in trunks of trees, and frequently make choice of an hollow apple tree. They feed in the same manner as the Green Woodpecker given in a former plate, and differ only in size and colour from that bird. When they alight on the ground they have an awkward appearance, which demonstrates that the tree is more suitable to their nature. They are a shy bird and not very easy of approach, their flight is seldom more than the length of one field or close.



Pidgeon

Rock Dove, Linn. Cat. Gen.

J. H. B. 1840

P L A T E X X X .

The Pidgeon

HERE represented is a cross breed between a Tumbler and a Pouting Horseman, therefore is of no more value than a common dove-house pidgeon, and fit only for the table. They will breed nearly all the year round, if kept in a room, and are a strong hardy bird, and full of flesh. These as well as the common pidgeon differ much in colour.

XXI



The Yellow Wag Tail.

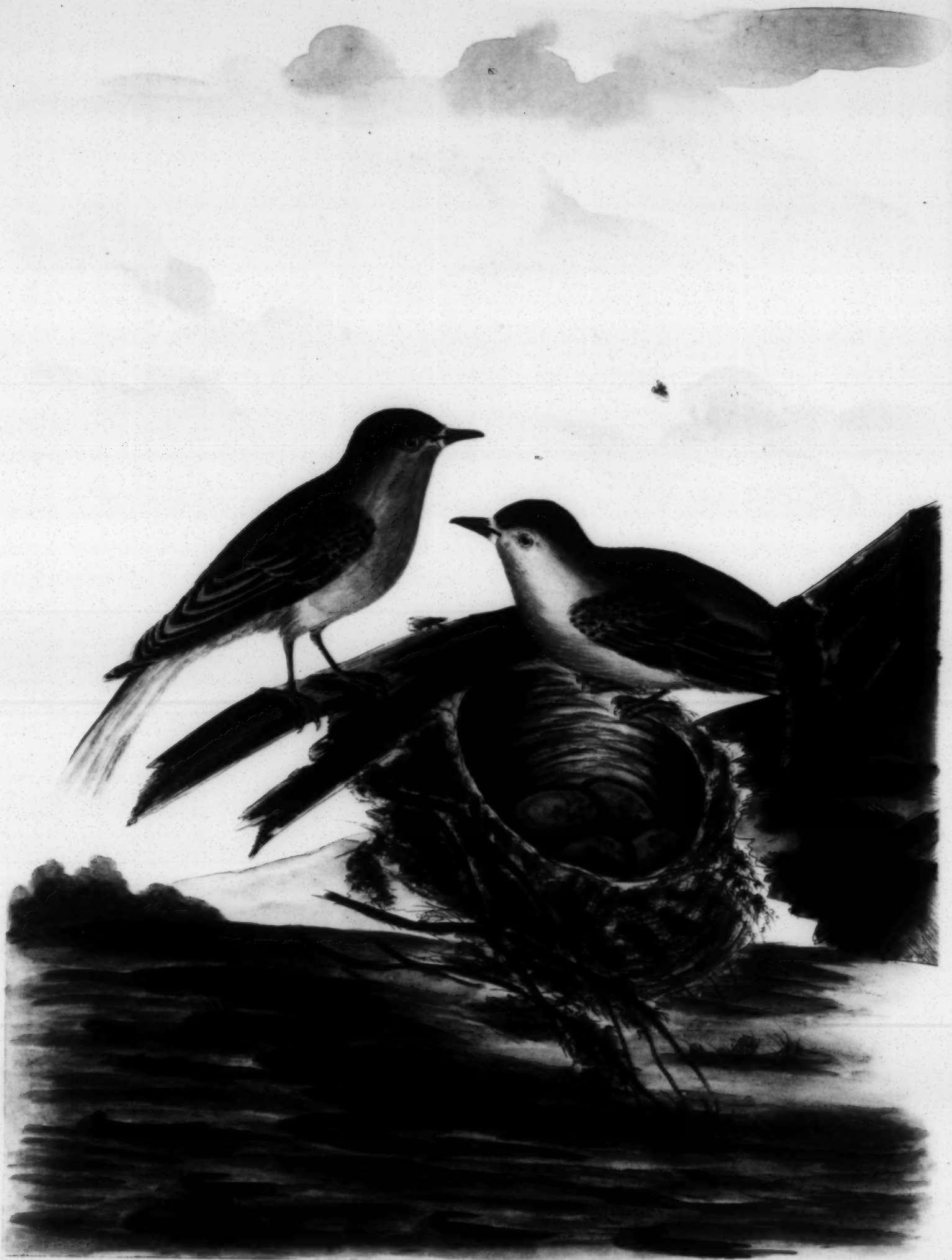
Printed & Engraved by T. Lord

London. Pub^d Mar^h 14. 1792. by the Author N^o. 11. Maiden Lane

Col^d. Gar^d.

The Yellow Wagtail

IS one of the genteelest of the feathered tribe. They visit us in the summer season, and are fond of frequenting our bean fields and tares, but are partial to the latter, where horses are feeding, on account of the great number of flies generally attendant, they being their favourite food. They are quick and short in their flight, and generally settle on the first twig or branch near them. They lay five eggs as represented in the plate: the young ones do not change their colour as they grow older so materially as some birds do, but only get somewhat darker in their shades.



The Wall's Bird!

Engraved by T. Hood.

London: Published March 11, 1798, by the Author, N^o. 11, Maiden Lane. Car. 1/6.

The Wall Birds

ARE of such a nature as to associate with no other bird, but live entirely to themselves; they make choice of the most retired part of a garden, and if there are bees kept, they will frequent their haunts, for they are very destructive to those insects; they will place themselves on some post or pales near the hives and watch them out, when they instantly dart at them, and seize them as prey; flies and spiders also they feed upon; they are harmless in every other respect but that of destroying bees. They have not the least song, or hardly any note whatever; they are of a still and quiet nature, regardless of every thing but their food; and neither quarrellsome nor playfull as most other birds are. They lay five eggs, somewhat resembling the Robin's in colour; they build in holes of walls and posts, or any such places, not at all secreting their nest, which is composed of a little dried moss or dirty straws, but principally spider's webbs; they make use of a little hair to line it. Although they sit three or four times in a season, few are to be seen, which gives reason to suppose that many do not live through the winter.



Painted & Engraved by T. Lord.

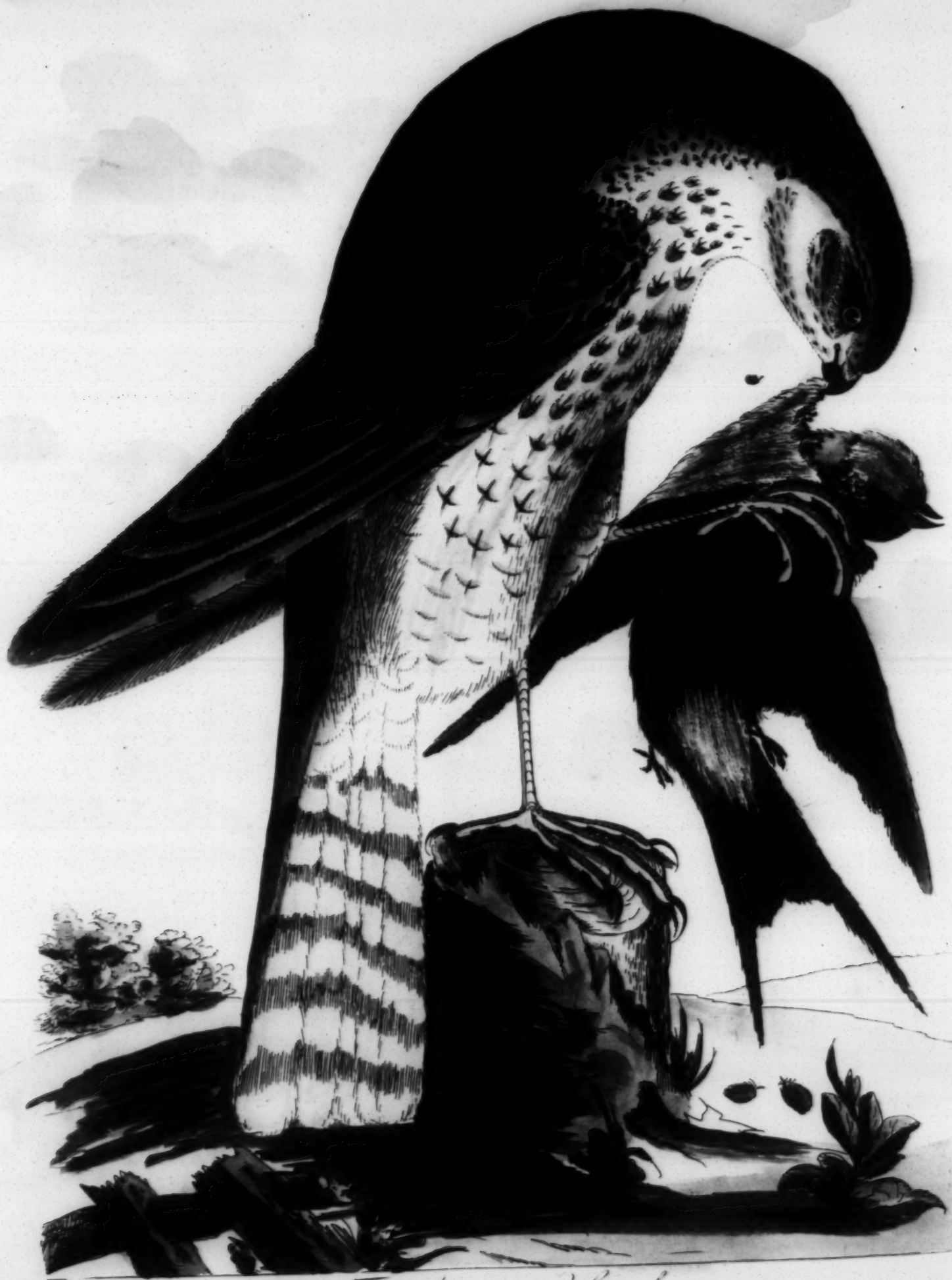
The Jay. London, Pub^d Mar^h 1794. By the Author N^o 10 Maiden Lane. Col^o 60.

The Jay.

THE bird here given is reduced in size for the convenience of the plate; when living it measured thirteen inches from the point of it's bill to the tip of it's tail, and eight inches round the breast. These birds are kept chiefly for their talking property; I have known them excell any Parrot what-ever in imitating the human voice; when once taught they are apt at catching any thing they hear; they have a disagreeable wild note of their own which they loose by degrees when learning to talk, and have a particular noise like the mewing of cats; but this is only to be heard in pairing season. They feed on reptiles of all kinds, and are very fond of fruit, which renders them great enemies to gardens; they are rather of a shy nature, generally watching the absence of every one before they will appear to notice or touch the fruit. They build with bits of rugged sticks, and are not very nice in the structure of their nest, which is made small and flight, lined, with a little hair intermixed; they lay five, and sometimes six eggs, which are small compared with the bird; (but that without it's feathers is small also:) they build chiefly by the side of an oak tree, seldom more than half way up, on which account the nest is conspicuous before you come to it: they are seldom to be seen single any time of the year, or with any other species but their own. They are fond of retiring to woods at night.

1877

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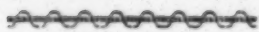


The Sparrow Hawk.

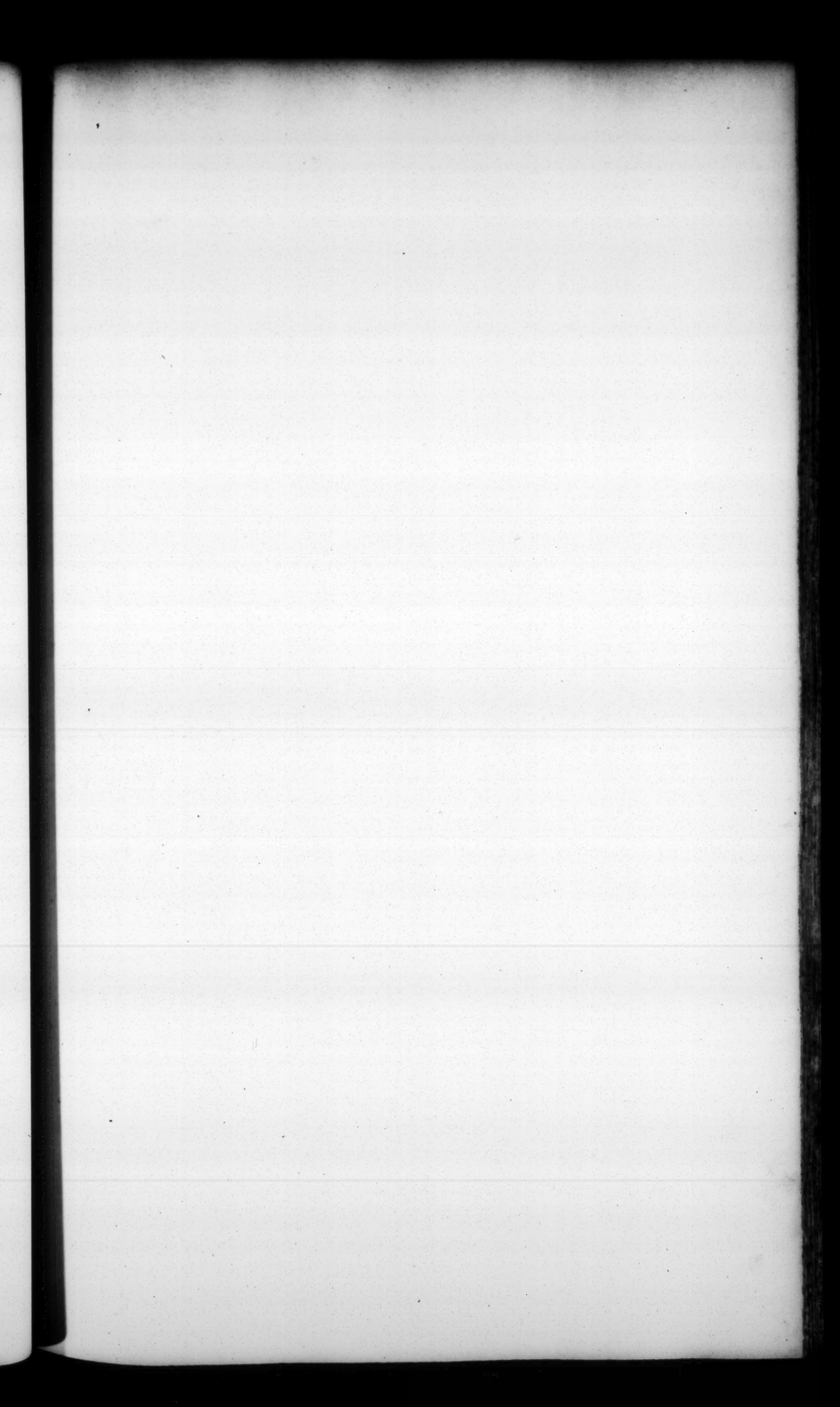
Painted, Engraved & Published by Martin.

by T. Lord, New, Mauden Lane, Covent Garden.

The Sparrow Hawk.



THE bird here represented is the most savage of its kind.—This was shot at the instant it was seizing a Swallow as its prey; and although the Hawk was shot dead with it in his claws, the Swallow made its escape unhurt. The Hawk when surrounded with small birds will appear as if frightened and wished to escape from them, artfully watching till some one of the multitude is separated from the rest, when, with his usual velocity, he darts at it, and seldom in vain. I have observed, when the small bird has flown through a hedge to escape the pursuit, that the Hawk flew over and met him on the other side. They are not easily to be shot, but when pursuing their prey. So great enemies are they to small birds, that they are frequently kept in gardens to preserve the fruit, for none dare approach where one of these inhabit. There is seldom more than one of them seen at a time. It is to be remarked, that they will frequently feed on mice, &c.





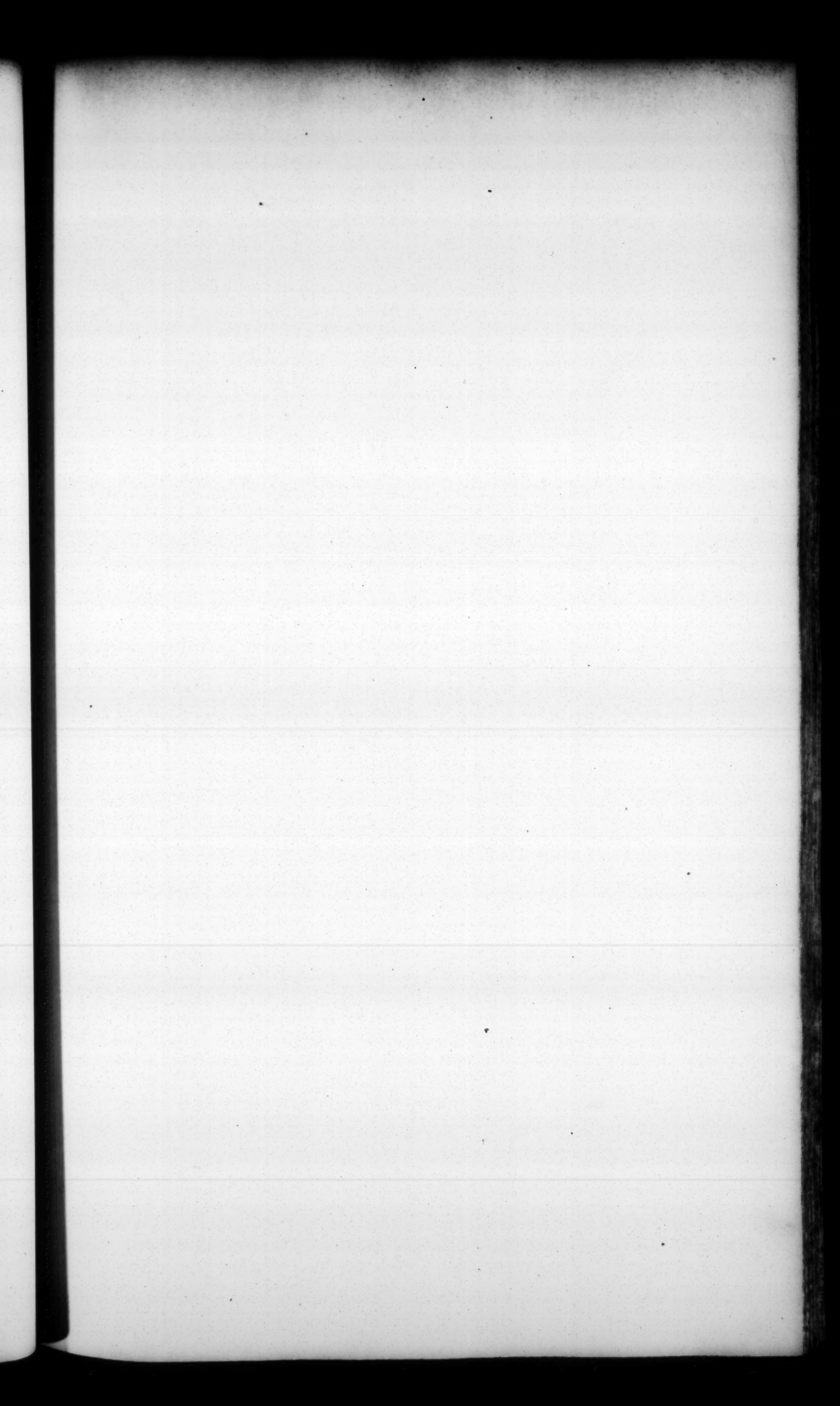
The Tom Tit?

London April 12. 1796. Painted Engraved & Published

by T. Lord. N^o. 11. Maiden Lane. Covent Garden.

The Tom Tit.

THIS bird is the largest of its kind. There are several sorts, which will appear in future plates. They are very common with us, and frequent our houses, and home buildings in farm yards in the Winter. They lay from five to eight eggs. They are hardy in their nature, alter very little in their colour by moulting, and are a bird of no song; therefore seldom caged. They make choice of an hole in a barn or rotten apple-tree to build in. Their food is generally bees, flies, spiders, &c.





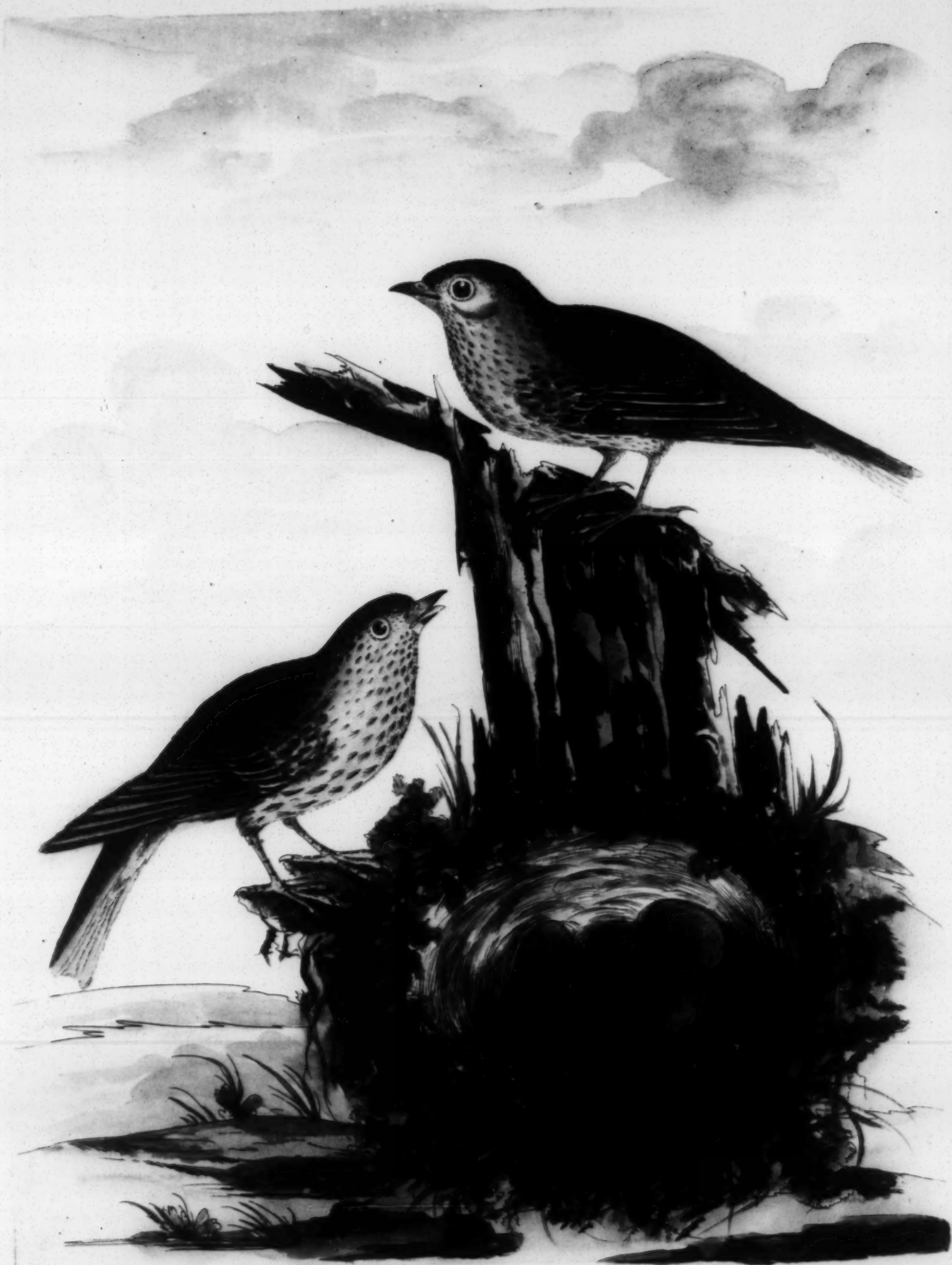
T. Ford, New York, 1891.

The Bantam Hen

London, April 18, 1891. Printed, Designed & Published by

The Bantam Hen.

AS this plate is so exact a portrait from the life, of a fowl so well known, I have only to add some few remarks. Their size, and the beauty of their symmetry, cause them to be universally admired: This bird when alive and in full flesh weighed only fifteen ounces; the portrait is somewhat reduced for the conveniency of the plate. For delicacy of flavour they excell all other fowls, and their eggs are equally delicious; in their properties they are the same as the common fowls, only that their chickens require more care in rearing. These fowls are much sought after, as they lay a greater number of eggs than the common sort. Some are beautifully muffed, and feathered to their very claws. They are of a spirited nature, and will encounter with any other fowl, be it ever so large.

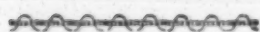


The Hedge Sparrow.

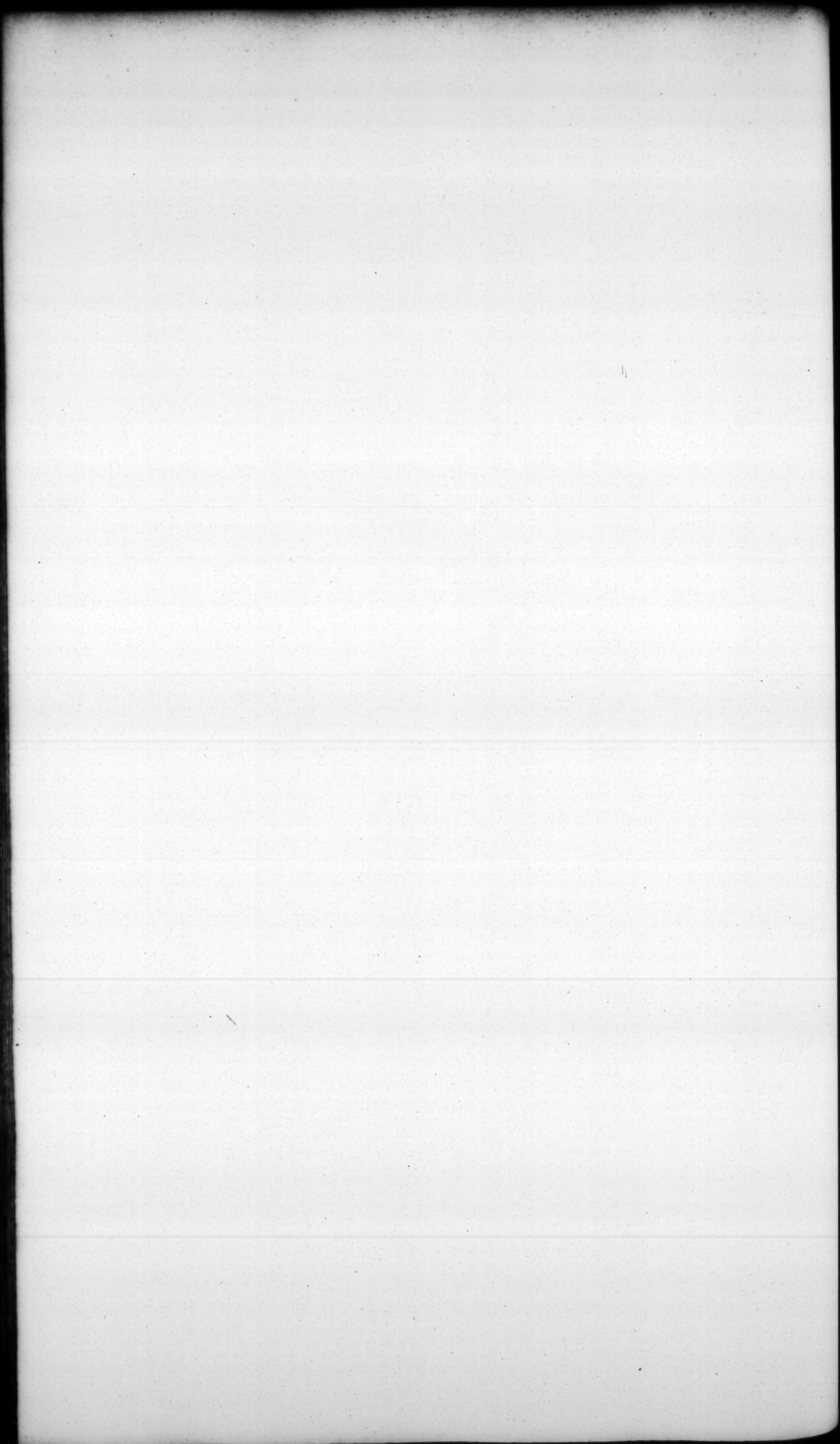
Printed, Engraved, & Publish'd. June 14. 1792.

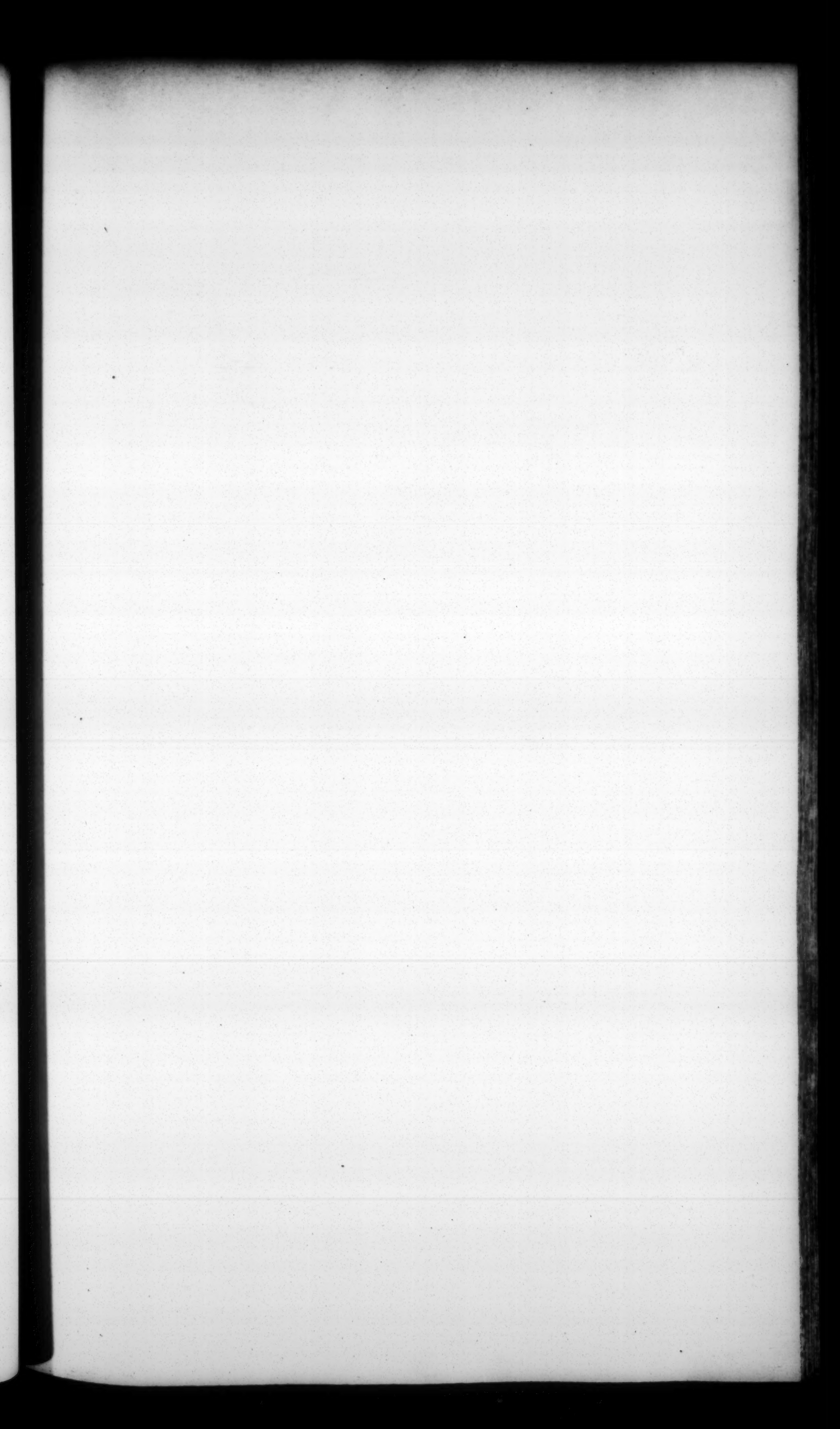
by T. Lord. N^o. 11. Maiden Lane. Covent Garden.

The Hedge Sparrow.



THE bird represented in this plate is held in no estimation either for its song or its beauty, consequently not caged as many small birds are. It is of a tame and inoffensive nature, and frequents small cottages, gardens, and yards, in pursuit of its food, which are grubs, caterpillars, spiders, &c. &c. Its song is rather short, but pleasing, which it warbles morning and evening. It builds its nest in a hedge commonly by the side of a wood, which is composed of both dead and green moss, lined with cow's hair, and generally built flat and wide, in which the bird lays five eggs which the Cuckoo frequently sucks, and takes possession of to lay her egg in, leaving that to be hatched and brought up by the little bird we are describing; which tenderly supplies the wants of the young Cuckoo till by its size the Hedge Sparrow is terrified and stands as if it was afraid to discharge the office imposed upon it. It is with much difficulty this little bird can procure food sufficient to supply the wants of its charge. It is to be remarked that when the Cuckoo leaves the nest the Hedge Sparrow takes no further notice of it.







By T. Lord. New Maiden Lane. Great Britain.

The Jackdaw

Printed, Engraved & Published by J. W. G. 1879

The Jack Daw

IS a very common bird, and a species of the Crow! It much frequents church steeples and hollow trees in parks, but never makes choice of a wood or common field. They lay five eggs, and generally bring as many young ones; they build three or four times in the season: the young ones are frequently taken and kept, sometimes caged, and sometimes not. This bird is made choice of because it is easily taught to talk, and very familiar; will perch on the shoulder or hand, and will follow any one it is used to with the same familiarity as a dog. Their food is flesh of all kinds, snails, &c. &c. I have observed them in a field of sheep standing on their backs picking out the ticks. They are of a hardy nature, and may be kept on any thing.



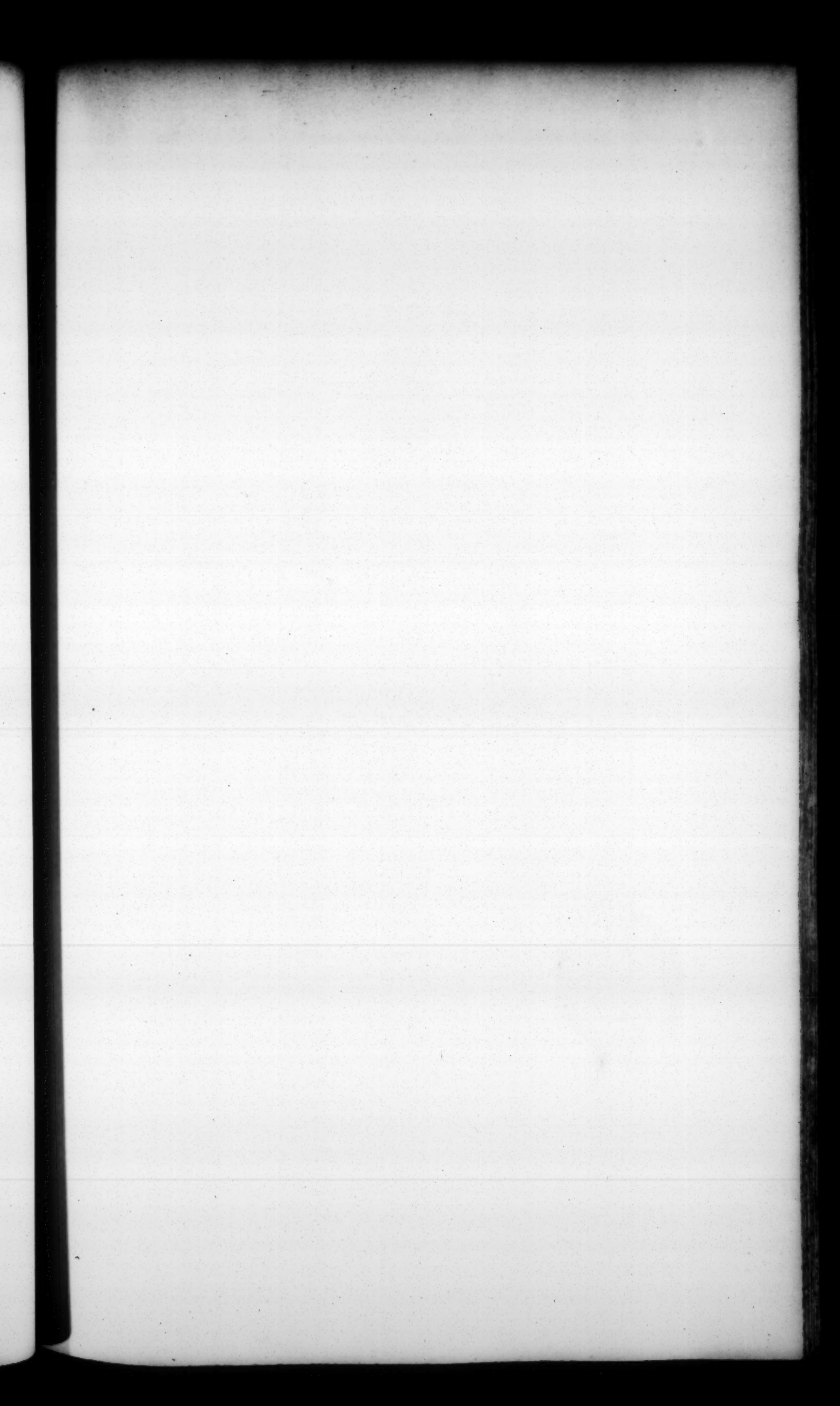
The May Bird.

Printed, Engraved, & Publish'd June 14. 1792. by

T. Lord. N^o. 11. Maiden Lane. Covent Garden. London.

The Hay Bird

IS a bird of little song, and less value: we therefore set it down as an English bird, but of no particular properties. It is tender in its nature, and though it lays five eggs, and brings as many young ones, we seldom see more than a pair together at a time. They frequent solitary woods and lanes; their food is chiefly flies, spiders, and small grubs of all kinds. The nest is built of dried grass, lined with the same, very slight and loose. The eggs much resemble the nest in colour. They seldom build more than four feet from the ground, and that not very private.

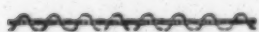




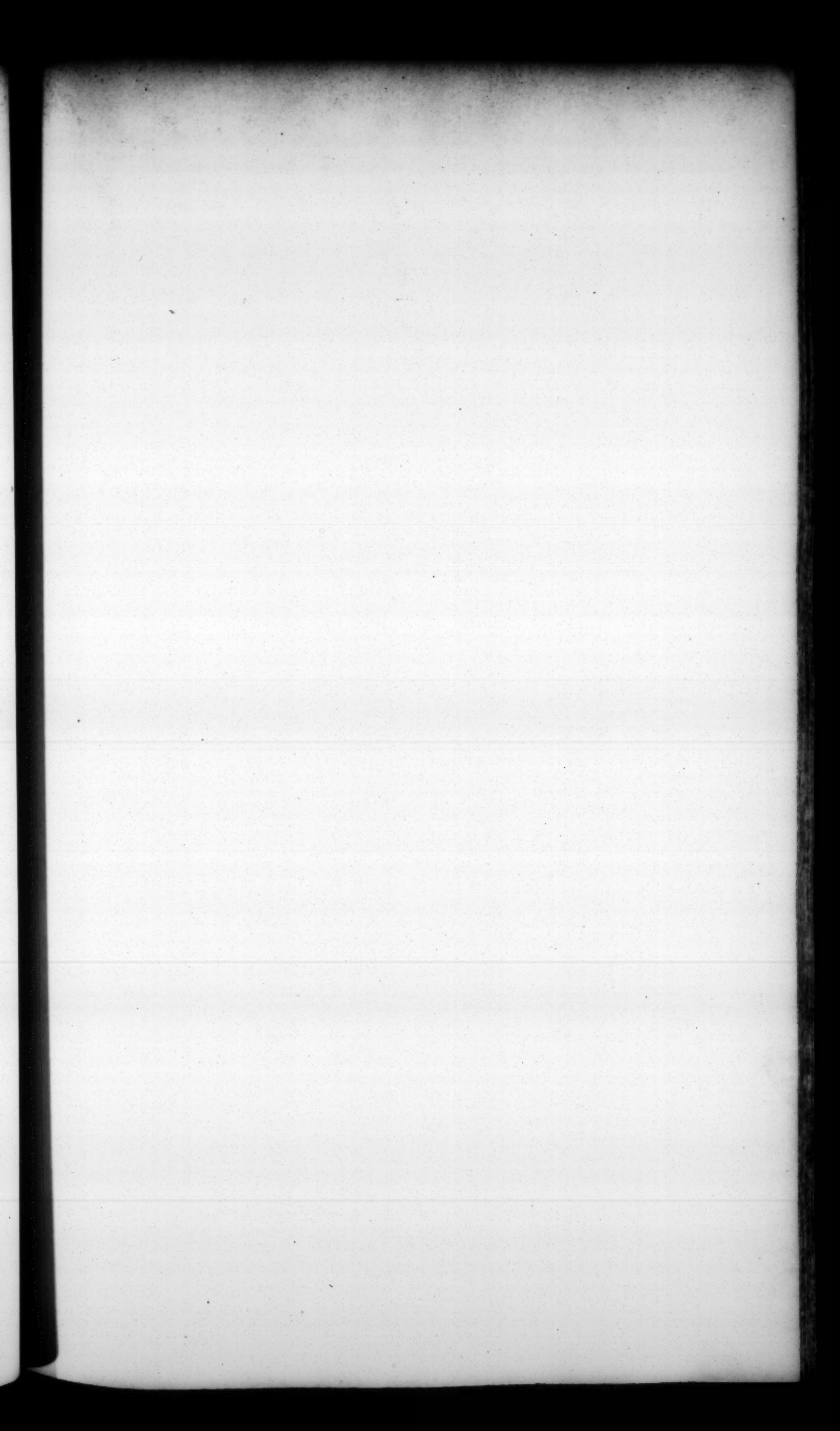
by T. Lord, New Maiden Lane, Great Britain.

The Great

Printed, Engraved, & Published... June 14, 1898.

The Coot.

THIS plate is the full size of life. They chiefly inhabit the lower fenns, being birds that do not frequent any places but where there is water. They are difficult of approach, for, immediately on observing any one they secrete themselves in the flags and rushes, or if there be none of those near they dive under water, and are no more to be seen. The few with which the London markets are supplied are taken with nets. They seldom fly, and are so closely feathered as to resist common musquet shot every where except the head. The nest is composed of a few rubbishing flags and small sticks but very slightly put together, it is built a few inches above the surface of the water and supported there by the flags and rushes, they lay three and four eggs, the young ones quit their nest as soon as they are hatched, as young ducks do; and I have observed them swimming and diving in the water at a very early period after they were hatched.





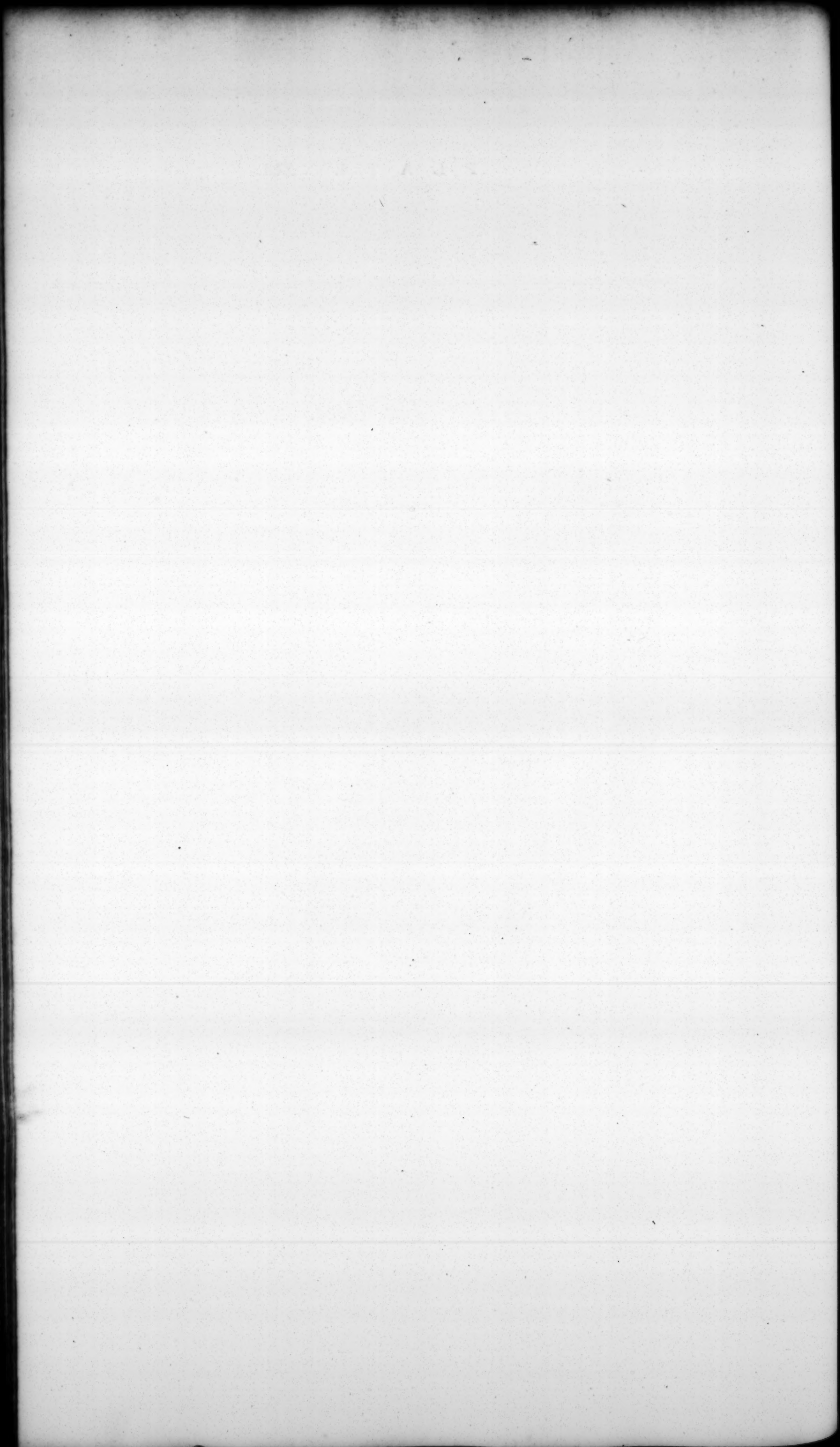
W. Wood. 1870. March 10th. Covent Garden.

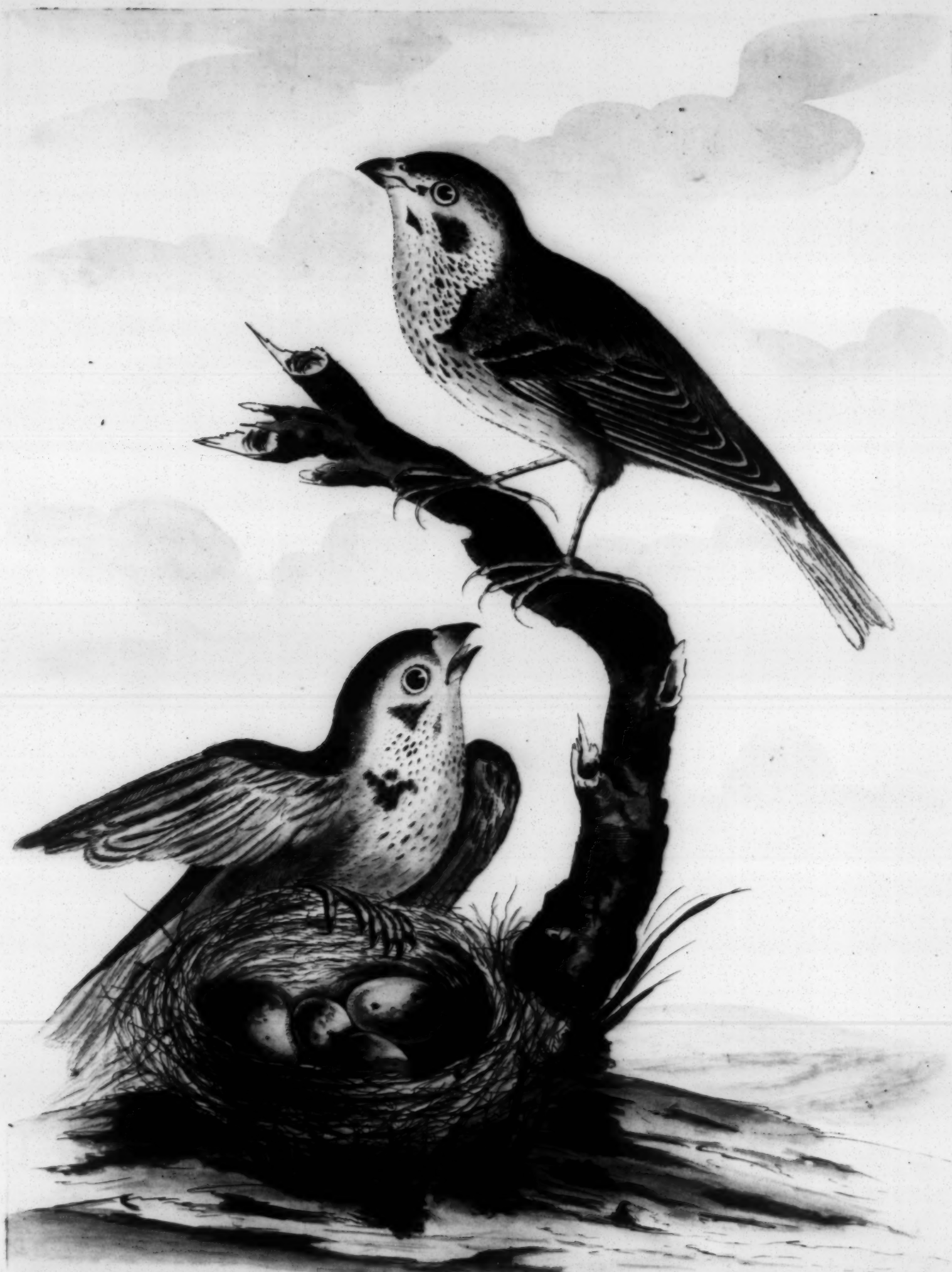
The Dove.

Printed, Engraved & Published. June 14. 1870. 1/6

The Dove.

THIS bird is a native of our Kingdom and is delineated the size of life: it is the smallest of the Dove kind, and much frequents the woods about Tring in Hertfordshire. They do not flock together as the Wood-Pidgeons do, but are mostly to be seen in pairs. I have seen them in the London markets before they were full feathered, where they are sold for foreign birds and are often caged. The proper food for them is Tares; and whilst young, once a day is sufficient for them to be fed. They build in small low oak trees in woods, the nest is slightly made of a few bits of sticks; they lay two white eggs, and sit eighteen days. They are very tender to rear, and if taken young will breed in cages.





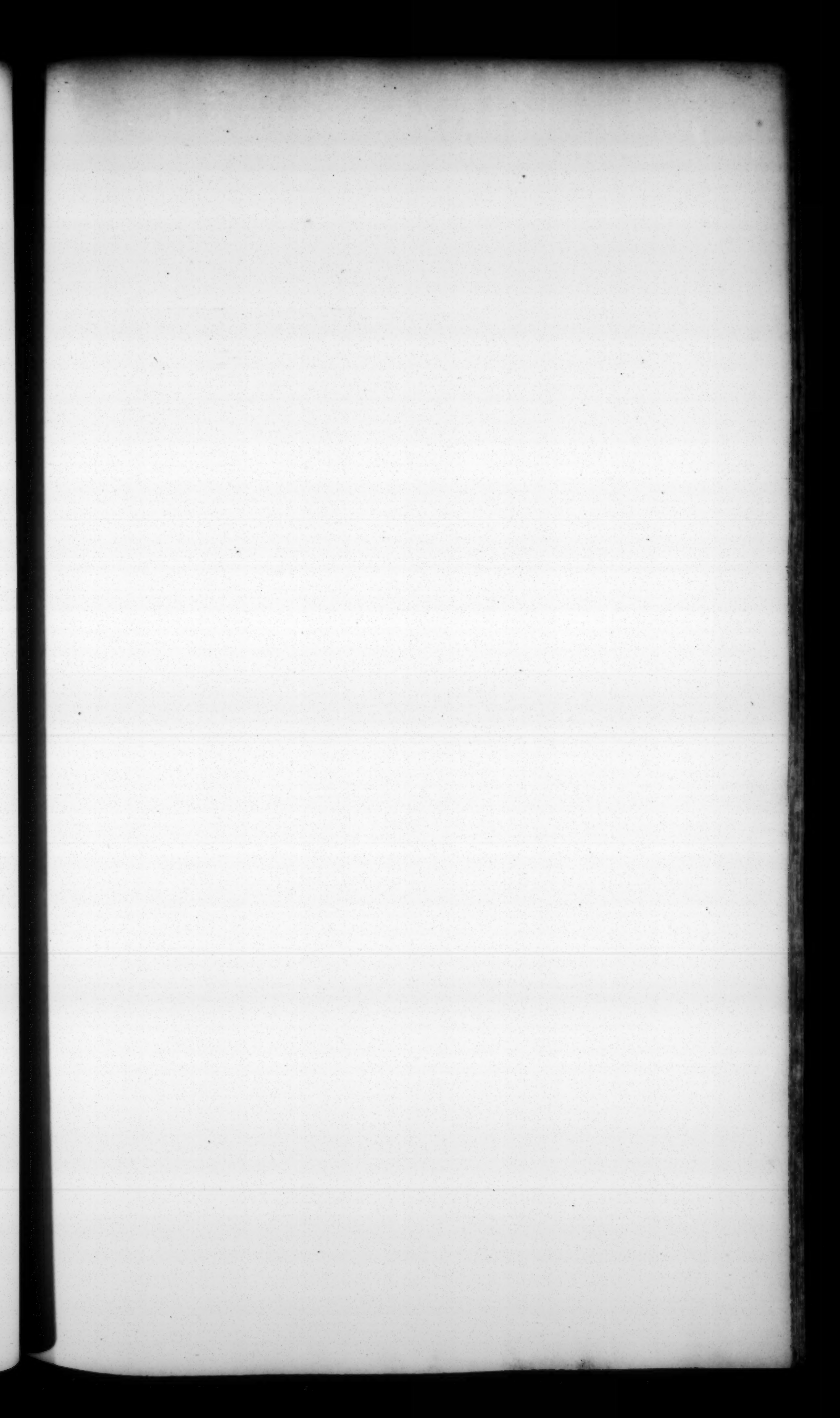
The Bunting.

Painted, Engraved, & Published, June 14. 1792. by

T. Lord, N^o. 11. Maiden Lane, Covent Garden.

The Bunting

IS a species of the Lark, but held in no estimation, as their song is short and unpleasant. They frequent our corn fields, and feed on small seeds of all sorts. They are a very strong bird, and will endure the severest weather; and what is worthy our remark is, that they have a tooth in the upper mandible of their bill. At the latter end of the year they flock with the Linnet, at which time they are tolerable good eating. There is but little difference between the male and female, except in the strength of the marks on the head and breast. Their nest is built and lined with fine grass, and is exceeding small for the size of the bird. They chiefly build on the ground, where the grass grows between the lands of corn; their eggs are beautifully spotted. In winter when forced by the severity of the weather they haunt the farm yards and neighbourhood of houses for food.





Painted by J. Gould, Esq. N^o. 1. Maiden Lane. Currier & Ives, London.

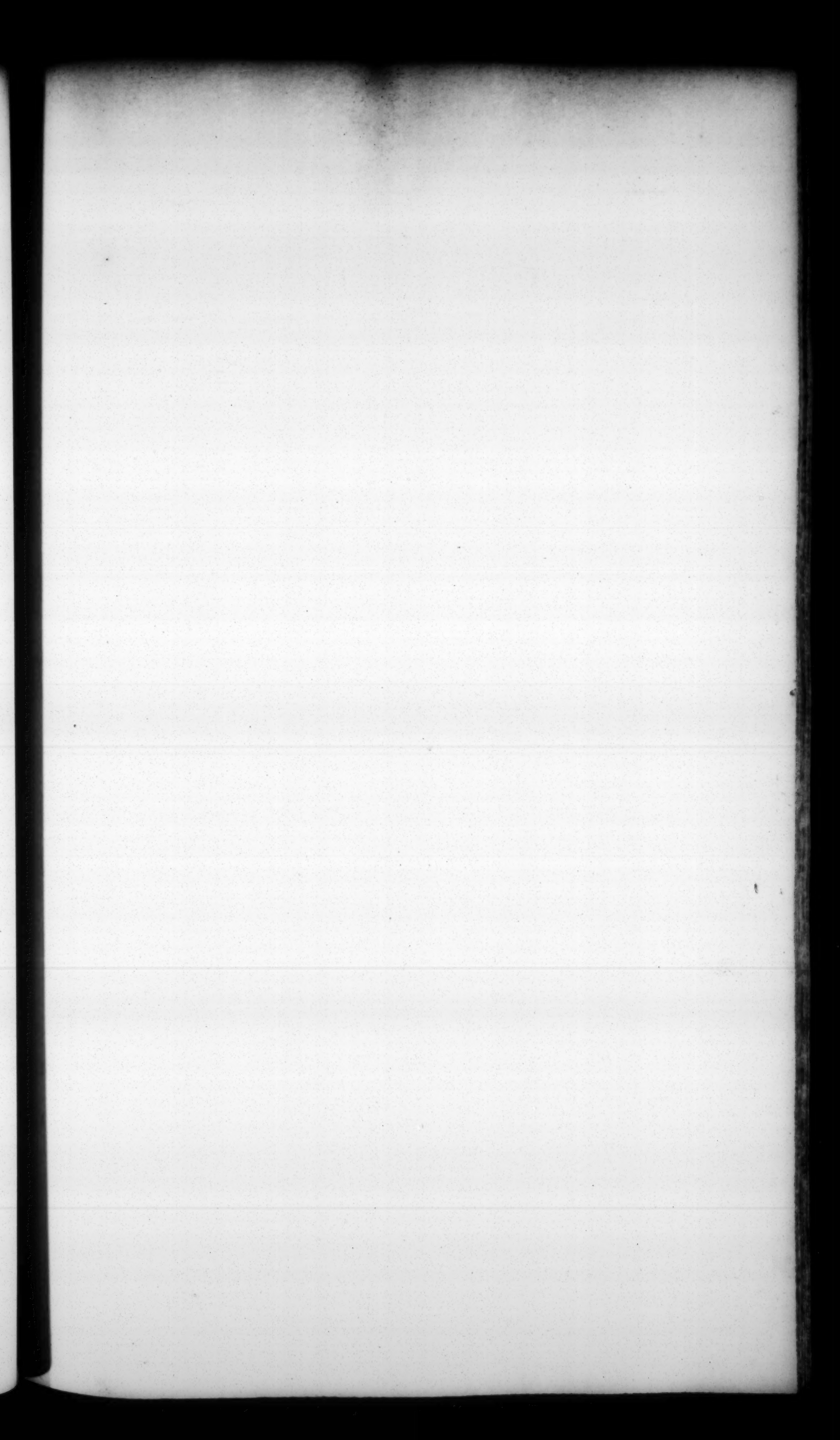
The Plover.

Printed, Engraved & Published, July 14, 1850. by

The Green Plover.

THE Female here delineated is something smaller than the Male Bird and differs in colour, displaying great effeminacy about its head,—the feathers which grow from the top of it are not so long as those of the Male. It has been asserted by those who profess to understand Birds in general, that this bird has no hinder claw, which assertion is erroneous; for it has that claw, though it is not so long as to reach the ground when the bird walks. It commonly visits us early in the Summer, and inhabits the fallow fields and marshy grounds, the former of which it makes choice of to deposit its eggs in and, which it does in some hole by the side of a clod or bawke, for they build no nest. They lay four eggs which are large in proportion to the bird. The young ones run as soon as they are hatched, and assist in providing food, but being unable to fly the old bird is much disturbed for their safety; when any one appears she has a voice or call which they know, and immediately sculk, and being the colour of the dirt they are not easily found. The Old Bird will pursue the supposed enemy, hovering over them, and partly flapping them with her wings until she is sure her young are out of danger; she then alights, and seems apparently satisfied, attentively watching the enemy's departure before she returns to her little care: the best way to find them is with a spaniel dog. When the breeding season is over they appear in great flocks on the marshy grounds, and frequently fly in the night, at which time also they are to be found on the lands: they continue with us till the winter is advanced: The young ones do not come to their colour the first year, which renders the distinction between the Male and Female difficult.

THE END





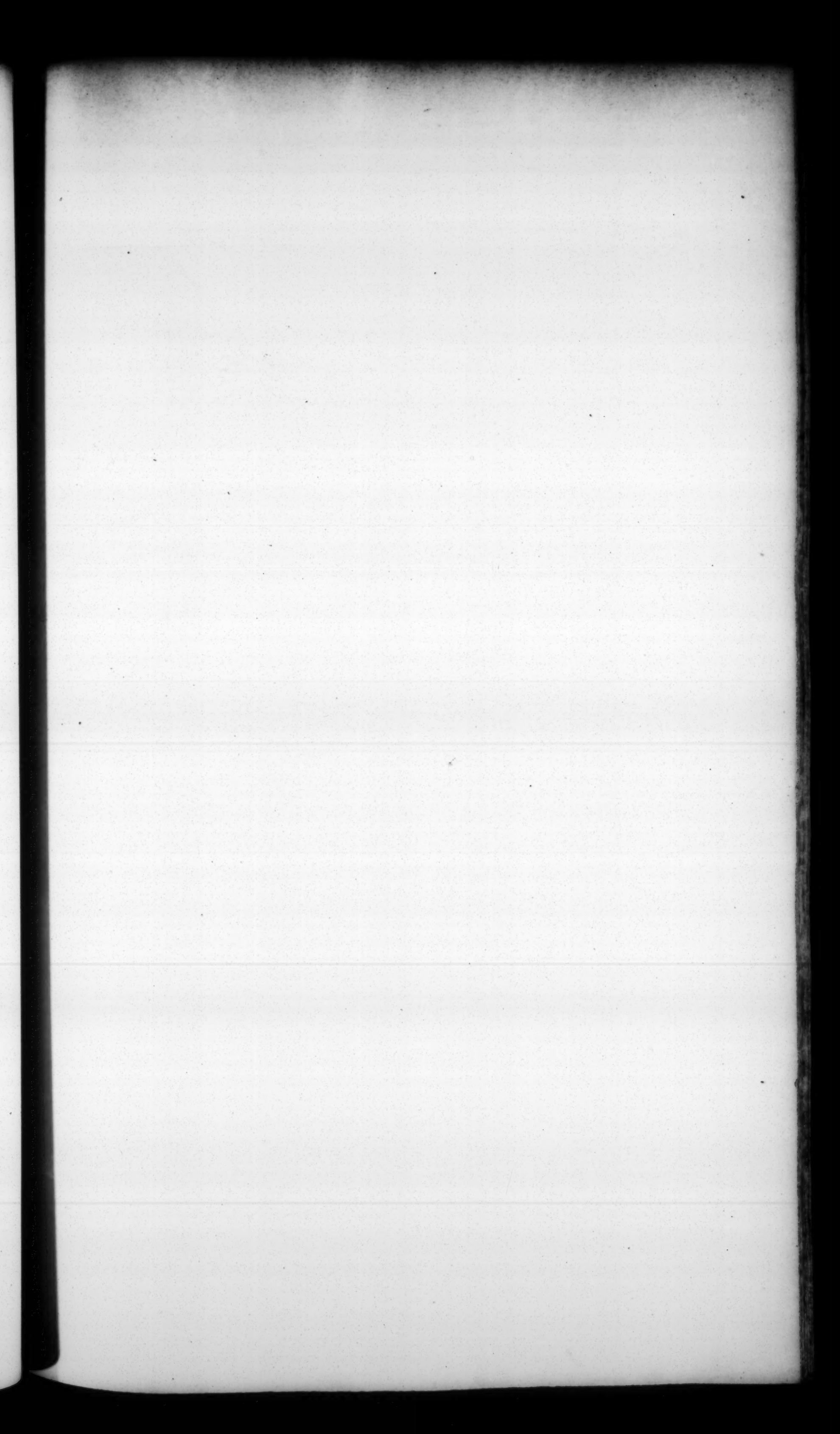
Painted, Engraved & Published July 14. 1792. by T. Lord.

The Wren.

N^o. 1. Maiden Lane, Covent Garden, London.

The Wren

IS one of our smallest birds, weighing only four drachms: their plumage is of the richest red brown, as represented in the plate. It is a bird held in little estimation as they will not bear caging; for although they do not appear to be wild in their nature, but will suffer themselves to be easily approached when at liberty, yet when confined in a cage they are totally regardless of all kinds of food, and beat themselves with such force against the wires that a few hours puts a period to their existence. There are very few of our small birds that can vie with them in song, their note being powerful and strong, particularly in the morning and evening, when two of them are at some small distance apart, they will answer each other for some space of time as if each were ambitious to excel the other; they frequently sing as they fly, which is not common with other birds: they feed on spiders and insects of all kinds. Their Nest is generally built in an old Hovel or thatched Barn, and is composed of Green Moss lined with Feathers, and one part being hid in the thatch or rafters is so constructed that it is impossible to see the eggs: they lay from seven to nine, which are exceeding small and white spotted with red. If they are not disturbed in their building place they will return the succeeding season, and appear partial to remote Villages.





Painted, Engraved, & Published July 11, 1792

The Swallow by T. Lord, N^o. 11, Maiden Lane, Covent Garden

P L A T E XLV.

The Swallow

IS a bird of passage, and does not make its appearance with us very early unless the weather be very fine and open, but generally before either the Martin or Swift. The Swallow chiefly makes choice of a chimney for its nest, and always occupies the corner as the easiest to build in; it is composed of dirt as the Martin's is, but not of the same structure as the former, which is left open at top. I have known a Swallow to build in the Passage of a House for several successive seasons, which gives reason to conclude that the same bird returns year after year. They lay five eggs spotted with a strong red; they breed three or four times in a season; the young ones differ little in colour from the old. Their food is Flies, and they are perpetually on the wing for their prey. The young ones do not wholly provide for themselves for thirteen or fourteen days after they quit the nest. At the latter end of the year, when the mornings get cold, I have observed them in great numbers on the tops of houses in full song previous to their departure, and make choice of that side of the house on which the sun rises. Their wings are calculated for long and swift flight. Some will aver that they hide themselves in Rocks, others that they repair to some warmer climate, as they have been seen on the rigging of Ships at Sea.



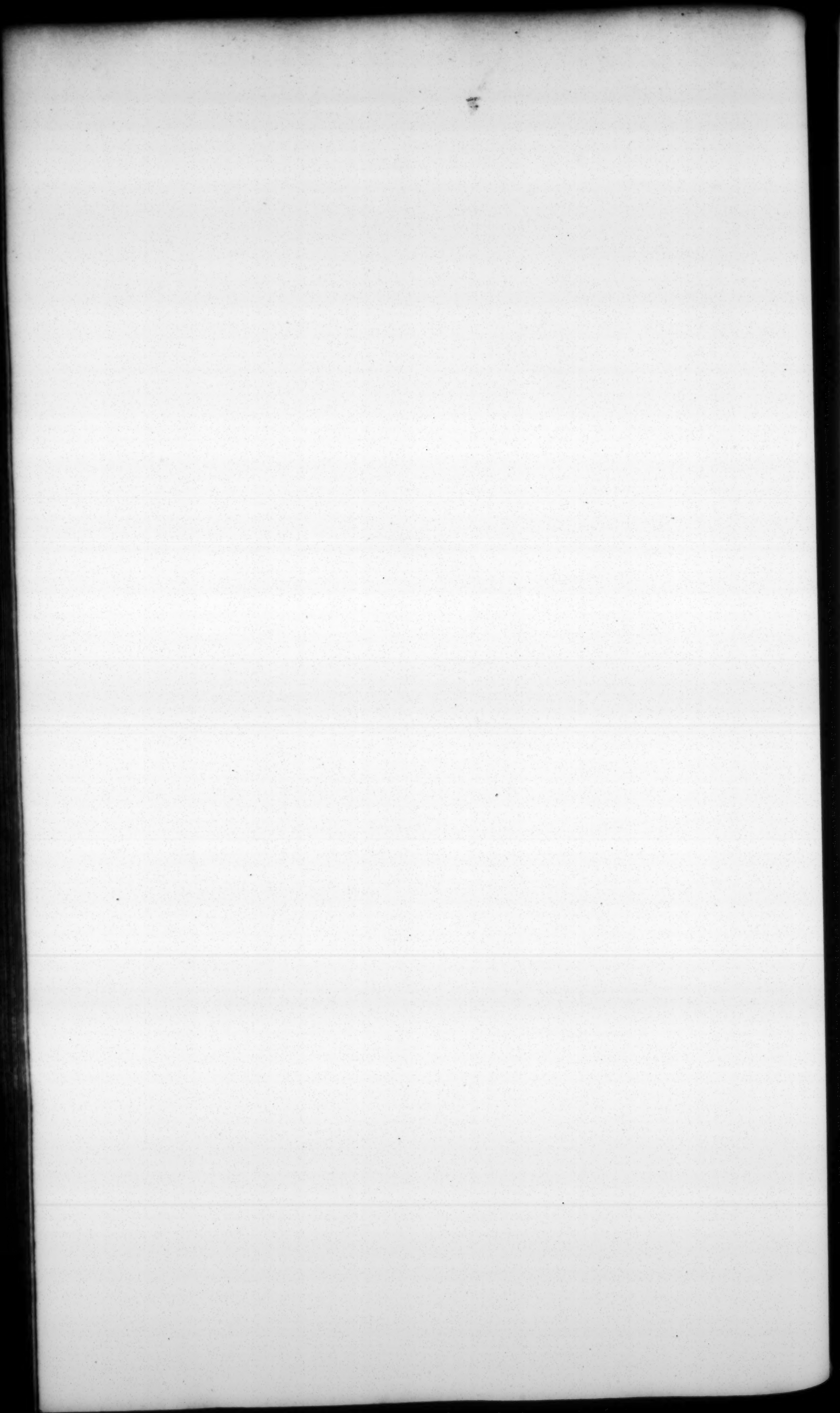
The Game Cock.

T. Lard. N. o. Maiden Lane. Great Britain.

Printed, Engraved, & Published, Aug. 24. 1792. by

The Game Cock.

THE Game Cock is a well known bird, and highly esteemed for the beauty of its plumage, and its valour: he will bear no rival, and supports, while he has life, the lordship of the walk on which he treads. If one of the same species be near him a battle is inevitable, wherein one is sure to fall, as neither will yield to the other: and if by chance they are separated, they watch for, and embrace the first opportunity of renewing the engagement, and it frequently happens that both birds are spoiled by the contest. Should it so be, that a Game Cock, and a common Cock are in one Yard they are sure to have a battle, which, however, is of no long duration, as the latter quickly submits and the former being conqueror is content with his conquest, and they live afterwards in perfect harmony, it never being known that the true Game Cock will, after gaining the battle, tease, and torment his opponent as the Common Cocks do each other. These birds should always be hatched in the month of March that they may have the whole Summer to grow in—they should not breed with the old flock, but change the Hens, otherwise the breed will degenerate, and become small and of little value. If the Game Cock is taken into a Foreign Country he will lose his courage, and becomes of no more value than a common Fowl. Stately and majestic in his appearance, he carries a superiority over all other Fowls even in his looks; in his colours he displays great brilliancy, and at the age of three years, is, without doubt, one of the finest birds we have in this kingdom.





Printed, Engraved, & Published Aug^r 14. 1792. by *The Blue headed tit.* T. Lord. N^o. 11. Maiden Lane. Covent Garden.

The Blue-Headed Tit.

IS one of the smaller species of the Tits, and is with us all the year. They are destructive enemies to Bees,—I have observed them rapping at the hole of the Hive with all their might, till at last the Bee by this stratagem comes out and becomes an easy prey. In hard weather the Tit will frequent the neighbouring Butcher's Shops, &c. to pick up scraps of Meat, and Fat which they are particularly fond of: nay, they steal into houses for food when the severity of the weather has destroyed the Insects on which they live. They mostly inhabit Gardens, Yards, and Home Places; and build their Nest in some hollow Tree, or hole in a Barn; they are not very particular in secreting their Nest, but it is difficult to come at their Eggs they lay them so far from the entrance, which is composed of feathers and straw loosely laid together in no sort of form. They lay nine Eggs, and sometimes more, white spotted with red; and it is very seldom the Eggs fail of bringing Young Ones. The Male and Female are so much alike as not to be known one from the other: the under part of the Feathers near the body is nearly black, though the tips are so beautifully variegated with blues, yellows, greens, &c. for so small a bird the Bill is remarkably strong. In the Winter they are easy to be caught with a horse-hair noose baited with a piece of Fat.



T. Lord, No. 11, Maiden Lane, Crest Grebe.

The Grebe.

Painted, Engraved & Published, Aug 24, 1879, by

P L A T E XLVIII.

The Plover.

IN this Plate is given the Male Bird, which differs much in colour from the Female given in our last Number. It has in it's appearance a much bolder, and more masculine look, and the feathers at the top of the head are considerably longer, and marked stronger: their colours are more full and brilliant than they are in the Female; and they are kept in Gardens, where they destroy the Sluggs, &c. but are shy when approached. It is common for them to leave the place in which they were bred, and great flocks of them are seen about the Fenns in Lincolnshire, as well as other places. Many are sold in the London Markets though they are not particularly delicious to the palate.



Printed, Engraved, & Published, Sept: 14, 1792, by *The Owl*. T. Lord, N^o 11, Maiden Lane, Covent Garden.

The common Barn Owl.

THIS is a Bird well known, and much valued by farmers, as they are of use in destroying mice in their barns and granaries, in which places, as well as in hollow trees and holes in church walls, they frequently build their nests. It is a property peculiar to these birds, that, as soon as the first brood are capable of feeding themselves, the old one drives them out of the nest, that she may lay more eggs in the place they occupied, and on which she sits again, the young standing round her on the edge of the nest: when this second brood is hatched and have like strength with the first, they are also driven away to make room for a third, the old ones procuring food for them all till about the middle of August, when they take their flight together; and though they are by this time well feathered, yet a fine down, long enough almost to hide the body covers them over, but goes off gradually, and leaves them thus beautifully marked. Tame Owls are fed on raw lean beef and other meats, they are accustomed very early to make a kind of hissing, similar to that of a goose, but do not begin hooting till the winter approaches, when they may be heard at a considerable distance, answering each other for whole nights together. They seldom make their appearance by day, as they cannot see so well then as by twilight, but if they do go out at that season they are pursued by numbers of small birds, who, though they dare not come near them, continue to follow and tease them as they do other birds of prey.



Painted, Engraved & Published, Sept. 14. 1792. by *Black headed tit, T. Lord. N^o. 11. Maiden Lane. Covent Garden.*

P L A T E L.

The Black Headed Tit.

THESE are of the smaller kind of Tits, but are not in such quantities as we find in many of our small birds; they mostly frequent woods, retired lanes, and ragged hedges. Their nest is composed of a brown and green moss, intermixed with dried grass, and is lined with feathers. They lay from nine to fifteen eggs or more, their food is flies, spiders, insects, and wood ticks; they are seldom seen sitting still, but are perpetually on their wings flying about the hedges and trees after their prey. When they first leave their nests, they resort to the inner parts of the wood, where, among the old and rotten trees they find wood ticks in great abundance. The young ones so nearly resemble the old, that it is difficult to distinguish the one from the other, without examining whether they have the black spot under their throat, which does not come to its lustre till the latter end of the first year.

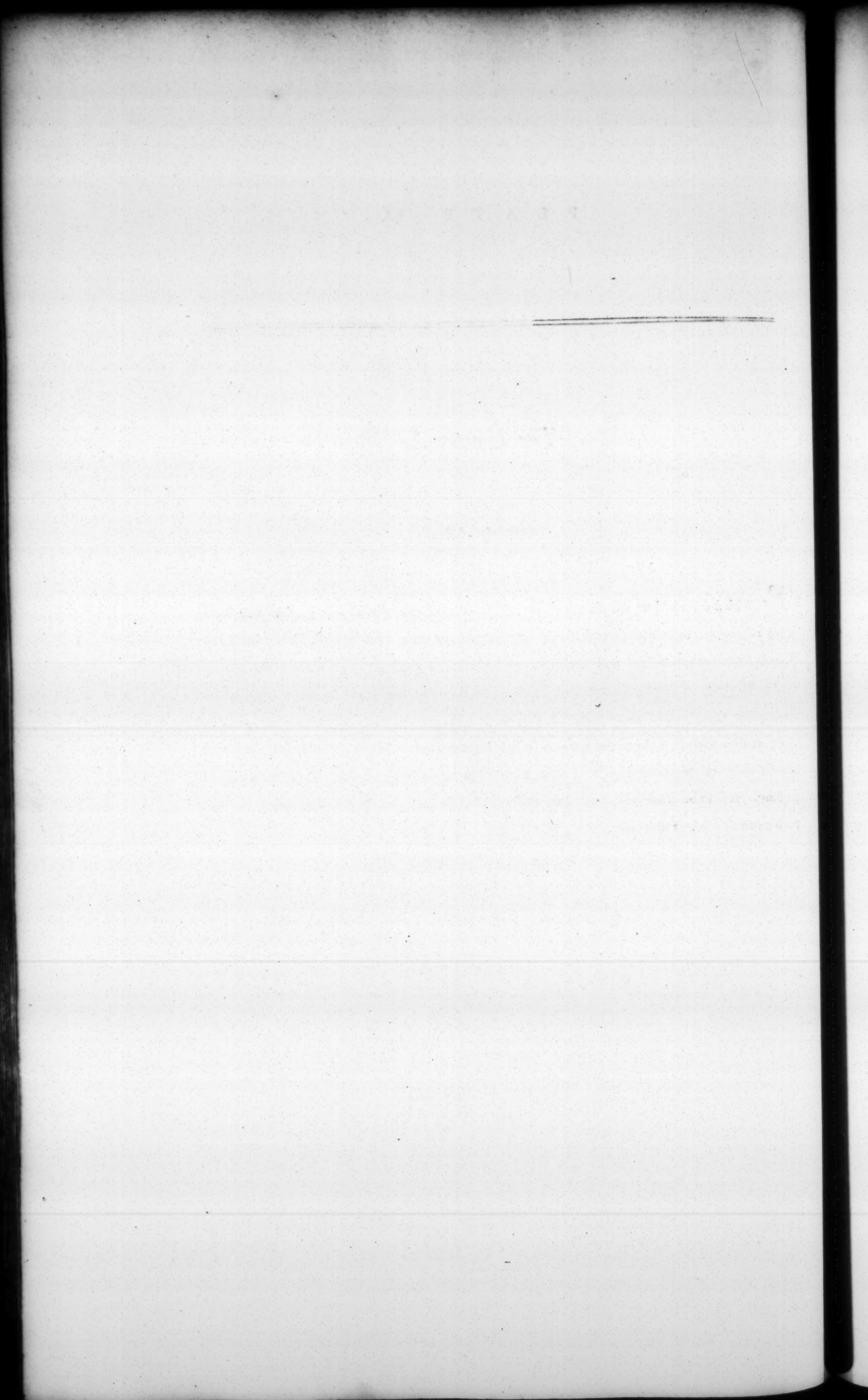


Painted, Engraved, & Published, Sept: 14. 1792.

The Creeper, by T. Lord, N^o. 11. Maiden Lane. Covent Garden.

The Creeper.

THE bird described on this plate is of the lesser kind, and generally inhabits gardens and plantations of evergreens, where there is shelter and warmth, it being a tender bird. They build their nests in low trees and bushes, and sometimes amongst the ling which grows thick under the firs, &c. The nest is made of dried grafs and bents, and lined neatly with the same: in these they lay five small white eggs, spotted with a faint red, they feed on the insects, flies, &c. which they find on trees, as they seldom alight on the ground. Their flight is short in search of food, from branch to branch only, creeping over the trees, from whence they are called creepers. They are a bird of no song. It is to be remarked, that a kind of hair or bristle grows on the nostril or base of the bill, peculiar to all birds of this class.



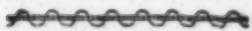


T. Lord, Esq. Maudslayi's Court Garden.

The Hawk.

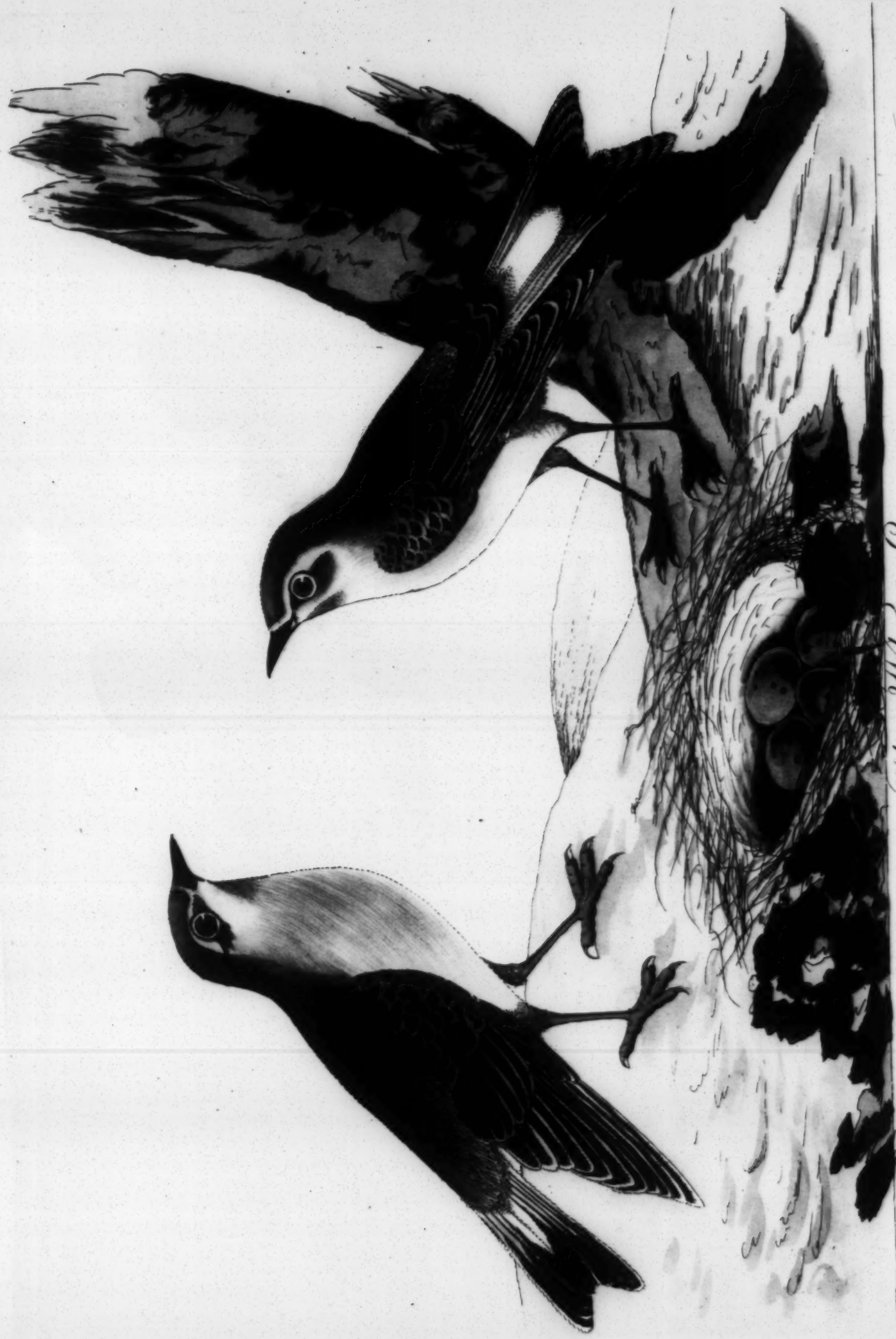
Printed, by W. & A. Wood, 25, Abchurch Lane, London.

The Larger kind of Sparrow-Hawk.



THE bird this was drawn from, measured fifteen Inches from the bill to the tip of the tail, and twelve Inches across the breast, but is reduced for the convenience of the work. He is not so much addicted to the destruction of small birds as are others of the Hawk kind, but will frequently feed on mice, watching for them with great assiduity in the open fields, hovering for a considerable time over the spot where he expects his prey, he moves only his wings, the tail being dropt till he perceives the mouse whom he darts at with great velocity, and having seized retires to some distant tree to enjoy his repast at leisure. These birds are not so swift in their flight as are the smaller Hawks, but are far more numerous. They build in lofty trees, in woods and forests, lay five eggs, almost round, and are frequently kept in gardens to frighten small birds from the fruit—the young ones differ very little in colour from the old, being marked nearly the same, but not quite so brilliant in colour, and are often met with in the London markets: they may be fed on any kind of raw meat, are a hardy bird, and will live many years.

THE END



The Wheat Ear, T. Lord, Esq. Maiden Lane. Covent Garden.

Printed, Engraved & Published, Oct. 5. 1792. by

The Wheat-Ear.

THERE are not many of these birds near London—the few we have are commonly found in pairs; they make their appearance in April, in the beginning of the breeding season, and inhabit our fallow fields and dry sandy heaths, being much averse to wet—for if a cloud obscures the sun they immediately run under cover to secure themselves from the threatening storm. In some parts of our kingdom where there are large heaths, and in the neighbourhood of Lymington and Southampton they are great in number, and the ground is frequently let for the sole purpose of taking them, which is effected by setting two turfs together edgewise like the roof of a House, and placing a horse-hair noose at each end—where on the appearance of a heavy cloud they run for shelter and are caught. It is customary for those who want these birds to walk over the plain or heath where the traps are laid, and take away as many as they please leaving for each bird a penny—knowing the ground to be rented by poor men for the purpose of gain. They feed on small seeds, grubs and reptiles; I have taken their nests composed wholly of dried grass from under a heap of stones—they are very negligent in its structure—laying it loosely together, leaving the sides to be supported by the stones—they lay six eggs of a brownish colour, with spots of a still darker brown—whilst young they in a great degree resemble the females in colour.

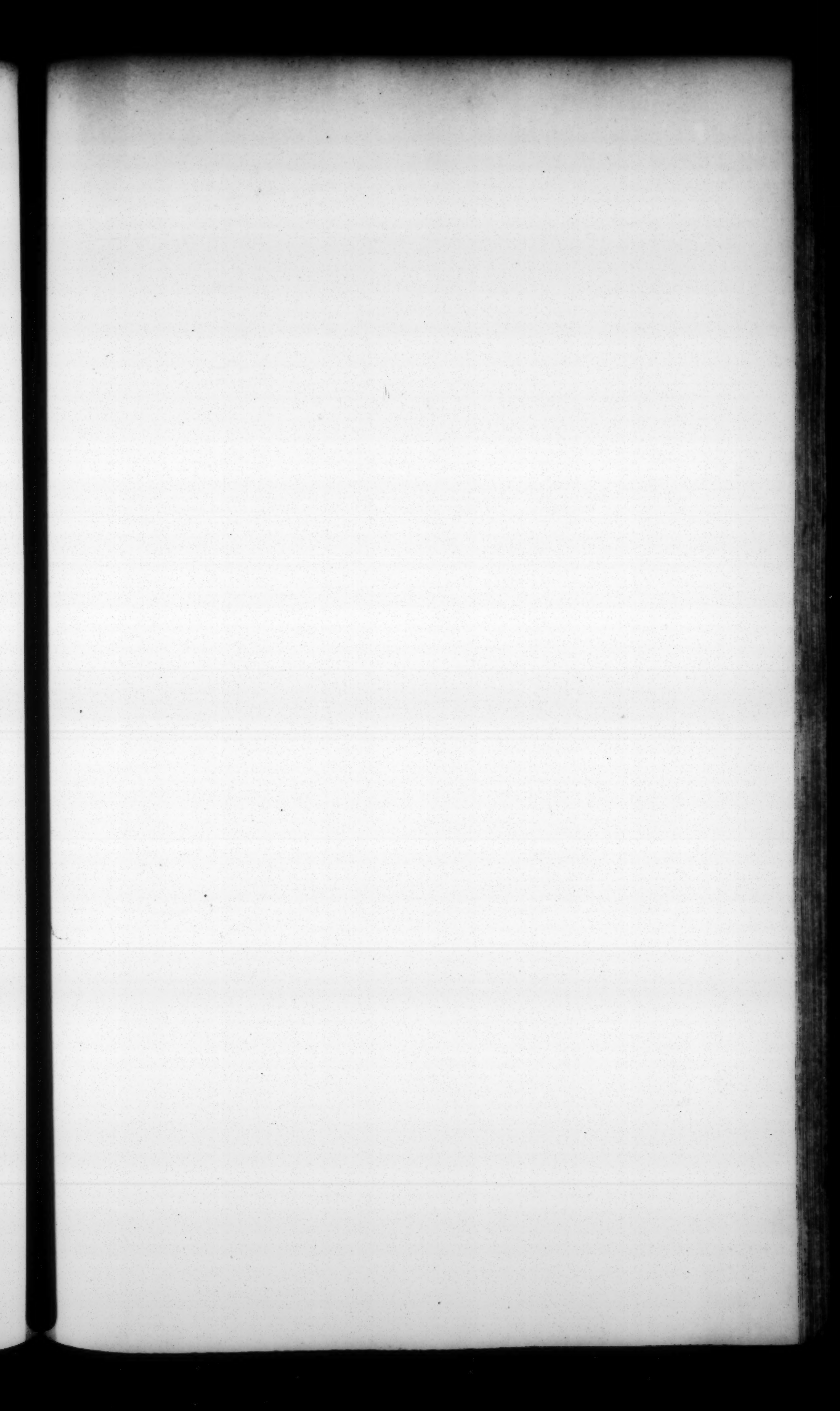


Painted, Engraved, & Published, Oct. 14. 1792. by

The Thrush, T. Lord, N^o. 11. Maiden Lane, Covent Garden.

The Female Thrush.

THE Female Thrush differs much in its plumage from the male given in the twelfth plate, its colours are not so dark as that of the male, and exhibits an effeminacy through its whole appearance. It lays five eggs of a light blue spotted with black, and are much rounder than those of other birds; they breed three or four times in a year, their young ones are easily brought up by hand; but their note is inferior to those which are wild in the fields—they are in full song all the breeding season, and continue so till the approach of winter, when they retire to woods, &c. for shelter from the inclemency of the weather.—For their food, &c. see Plate the Twelfth.





Printed, Engraved, & Published June 14. 1793. *The tit Lark.* by T. Lord. N. 11. Maiden Lane. Covent Garden.

The Tit-Larks

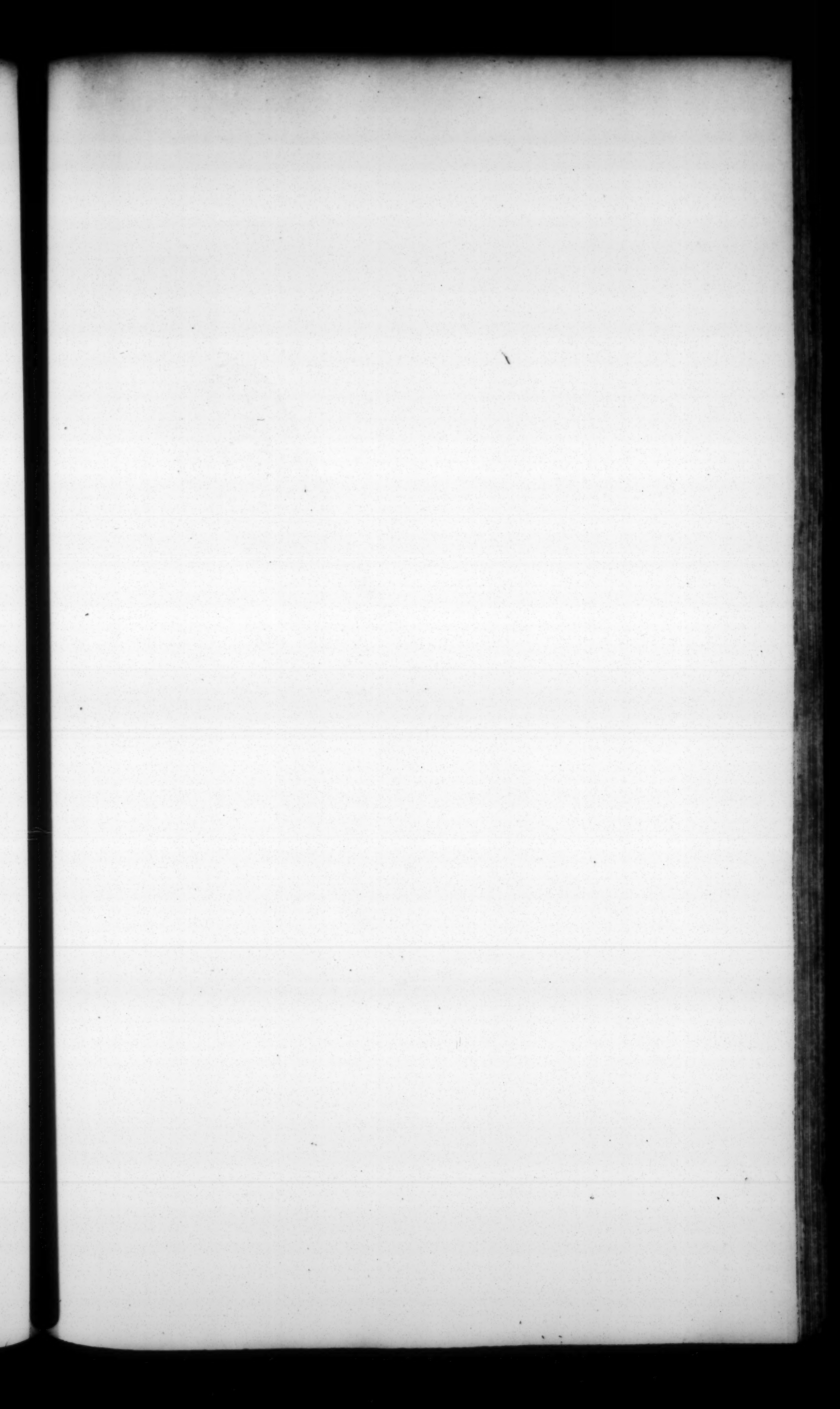
ARE summer visitors to us, and usher in the season with their tuneful and melodious note. They are seldom caged, but are principally kept by those who breed Canary birds in any quantity, for the purpose of teaching them their note: for the same reason the Nightingale is kept, and by this plan, the Canaries unite their different notes and excel all other birds in song. They breed three or four times in a season, laying five eggs. Their nest is composed of dried grass lined with the same, and intermixed with hair; it is generally built by the side of a bank, or foot of some tree. They feed on all kinds of small seeds, and are particularly fond of hemp seed; though to keep them constantly on that food alone, would shorten their lives. It is somewhat singular in these birds, that they make choice of the top branch of some high tree, from whence they soar to a great height, continuing their song till they again descend and resume their primary station. It is difficult to distinguish the male from the female. The most certain mode is by their song, or by taking them early in the summer, as the male bird comes first. They are not numerous,—those we have, are found by the sides of woods, &c.



Designed, Engraved & Published, June 14. 1797. The Red-tail, 93. by T. Lott, Maiden Lane, Cor. 6th St.

The Red-Tail

IS a bird of passage, and with us only in the summer: the male birds are first seen about the latter end of April, or the beginning of May; they are of short song, but rather pleasing, and are not kept in cages; the reason I conceive to be is, because they chiefly feed on flies, caterpillars, and grubs; a species of food not easily procured for them. They much resemble our Robin in their manner of building, as also in their eggs and young. The situation generally made choice of by them for their nest, is in some old saw-pit, or hole in a tree, but care not in what part, as they are seldom disturbed: they lay five eggs, and breed three or four times in a season, yet we seldom see more than one pair of old birds together: they are tender and not very chearful, except when the female sits, and then the male bird sings, as is common with most birds. There is some difference in the male and female in shape as well as in colour.





by T. Lovell, F.R.S., Maiden Lane, Covent Garden.

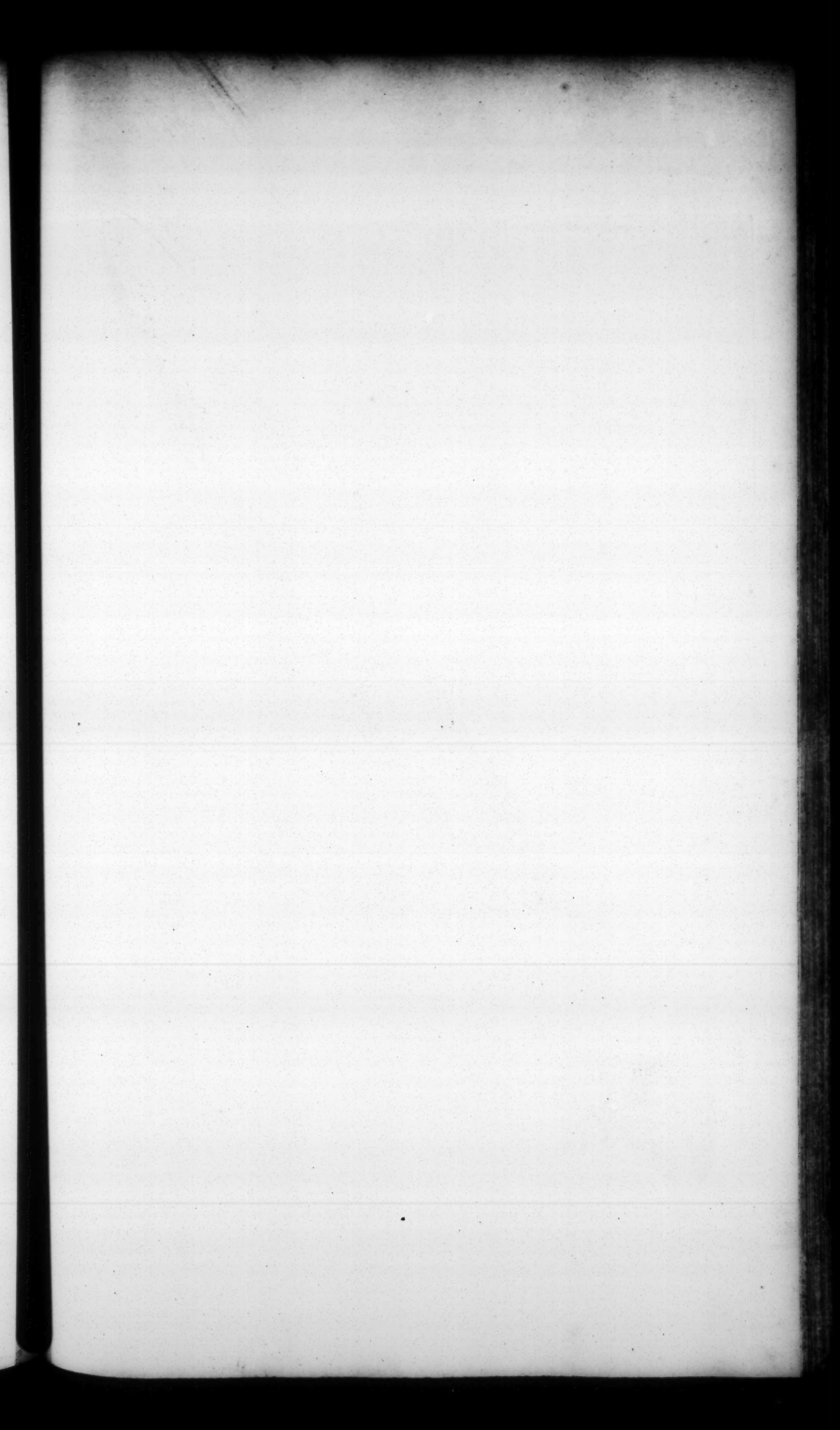
The Crow.

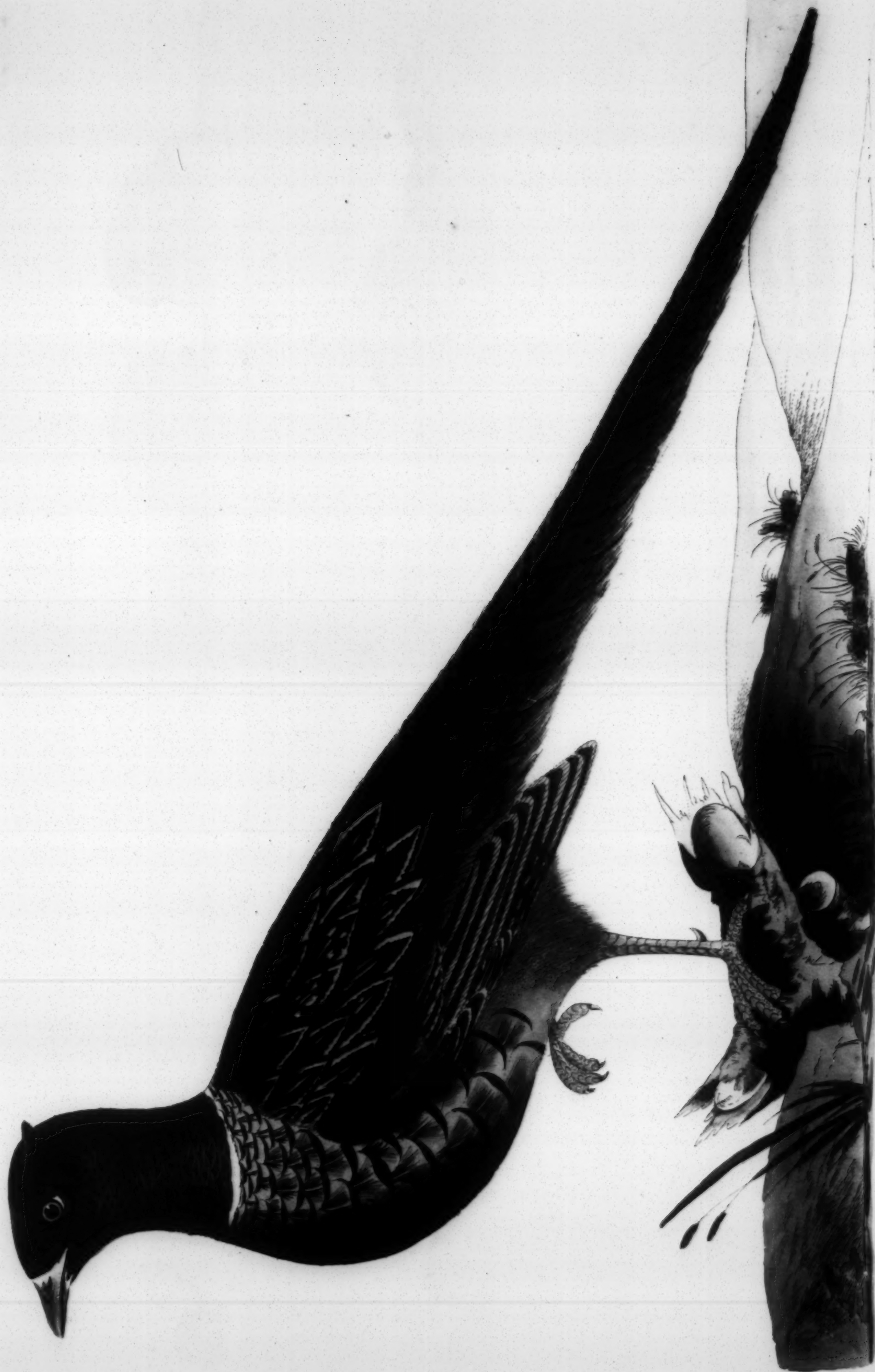
Printed & Published, June 18 1799.

The Crow

FROM which this plate was taken, measured seventeen inches from the point of the bill to the tip of the tail, and fourteen inches round the breast. The Crow is a close feathered bird, and much neater in its appearance than many other birds which come into the same class. They have a stately walk, and sometimes very swift in their flight—and generally build their nests at the top of some slender elm-tree, much exposed to view: it is composed of sticks, lined with wool, rags, or any rubbish they can find; they lay five eggs which are of a dirty blue spotted with grey, rather pointed at the small end, and are not very nice in the choice of their food, but take up with whatever they can meet: in seed time they willingly partake of all kind of grain, nor have they any objection to a meal on a dead sheep, be it ever so stale, and frequently watch an opportunity to take away chickens, young ducks, &c. and feed their young on such food. Their young quit the nest at the age of three weeks, and in about fourteen days are able to provide for themselves, by which time the old one will have another new nest, for they build three or four times in a season, and at the latter end of the summer begin to flock together, and continue in that state until the ensuing spring. They are a shy cunning bird, not easily approached, more especially if a gun is carried. I know not of any peculiar property they have, except that of destroying worms and slugs in the fields, and that they cannot bear the approach of a kite—on seeing one, they instantly pursue him, endeavouring to be uppermost in flight, darting on him, and with fury buffeting him with their wings, and although the kite strongly endeavours to oppose the crow and defend himself, the crow having more command of his wings always drives him off, and seems to return sensible of his victory.

THE FIFTH

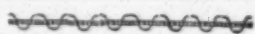




The Quail.

Printed by W. Woodcut, & Published by J. W. Smith, 1844.

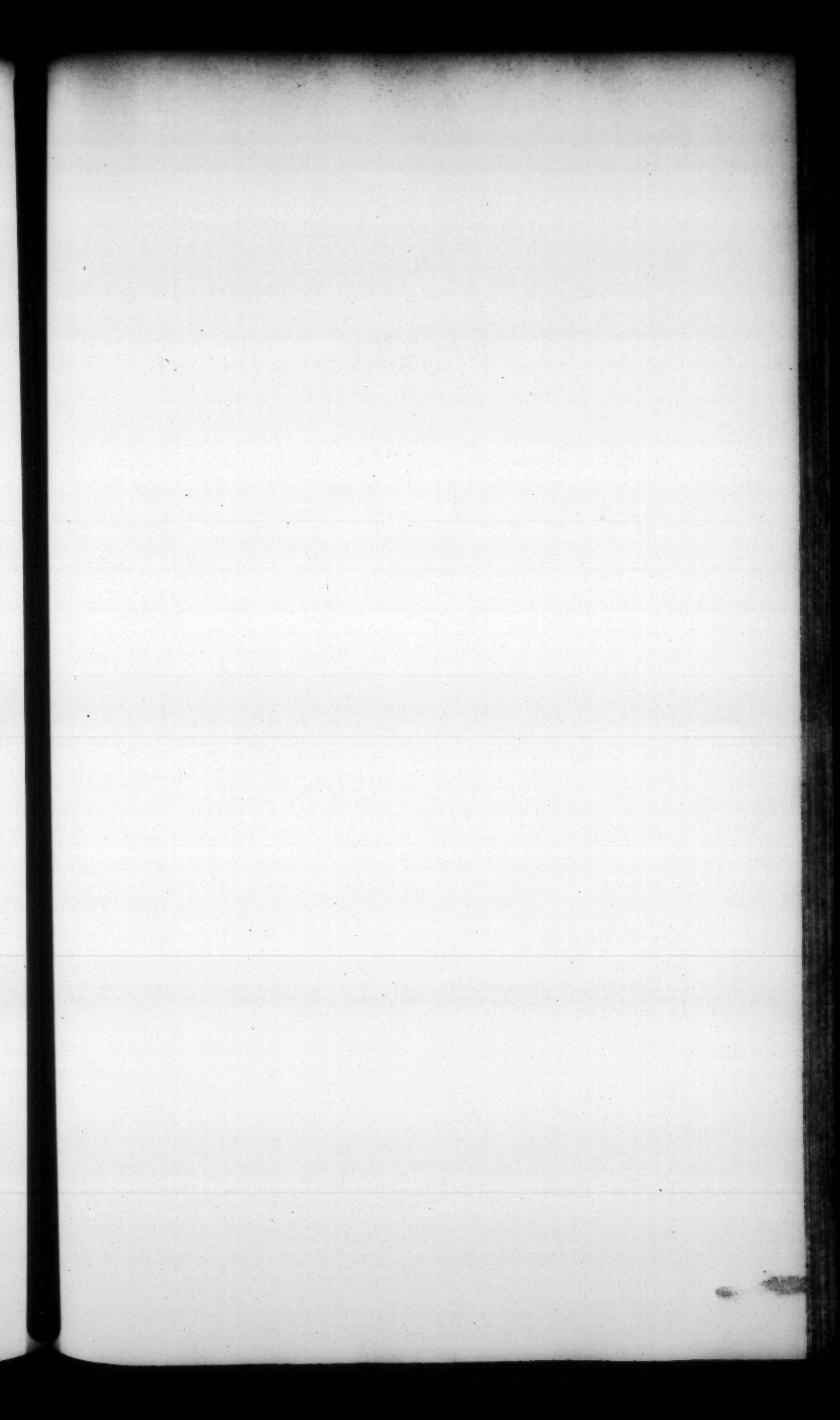
By J. Woodcut, 1844.

The Pheasant

IS esteemed one of the finest Birds we have, and the Male here delineated, is from one of the most beautiful of its kind. The Pheasant inhabits woods, and seldom goes far from thence, being a heavy Bird, and not fond of flying. They feed upon grain of all sorts in the summer, but when winter approaches keep more at home, and are satisfied with what falls from the bushes, such as hips, haws, &c. even acorns have been found in their craws: they have some affinity with our poultry; the male bird crows as our yard fowls do, and will breed with game or bantam hens, tho' by thus crossing the breed they of course lose much of their beauty. When wild they lay fifteen or sixteen eggs, and generally bring as many young ones, who quit their nest as soon as they are hatched, and are conducted by the old ones to some bank where ants eggs are to be found, on which they chiefly feed whilst young, but as they grow stronger they pick up corn, or whatever else they find about the bushes, &c. &c. They may be confined in a room and will breed there, but have fewer eggs than when in a state of freedom; nor can they be so entirely tamed as to appear tranquil or contented, but continually go to and fro as if anxious for liberty. When they are wild in the field and perceive themselves pursued, they will if possible run under some cover rather than fly, such is their apparent dislike to the wing. They run exceeding fast, and are conscious of their defects in flying.

If this bird had been reduced to the usual size of the plates in this work he would have appeared to too great a disadvantage, I have therefore enlarged the plate, for the purpose of conveying a more perfect idea of his beauty and grandeur.

1821

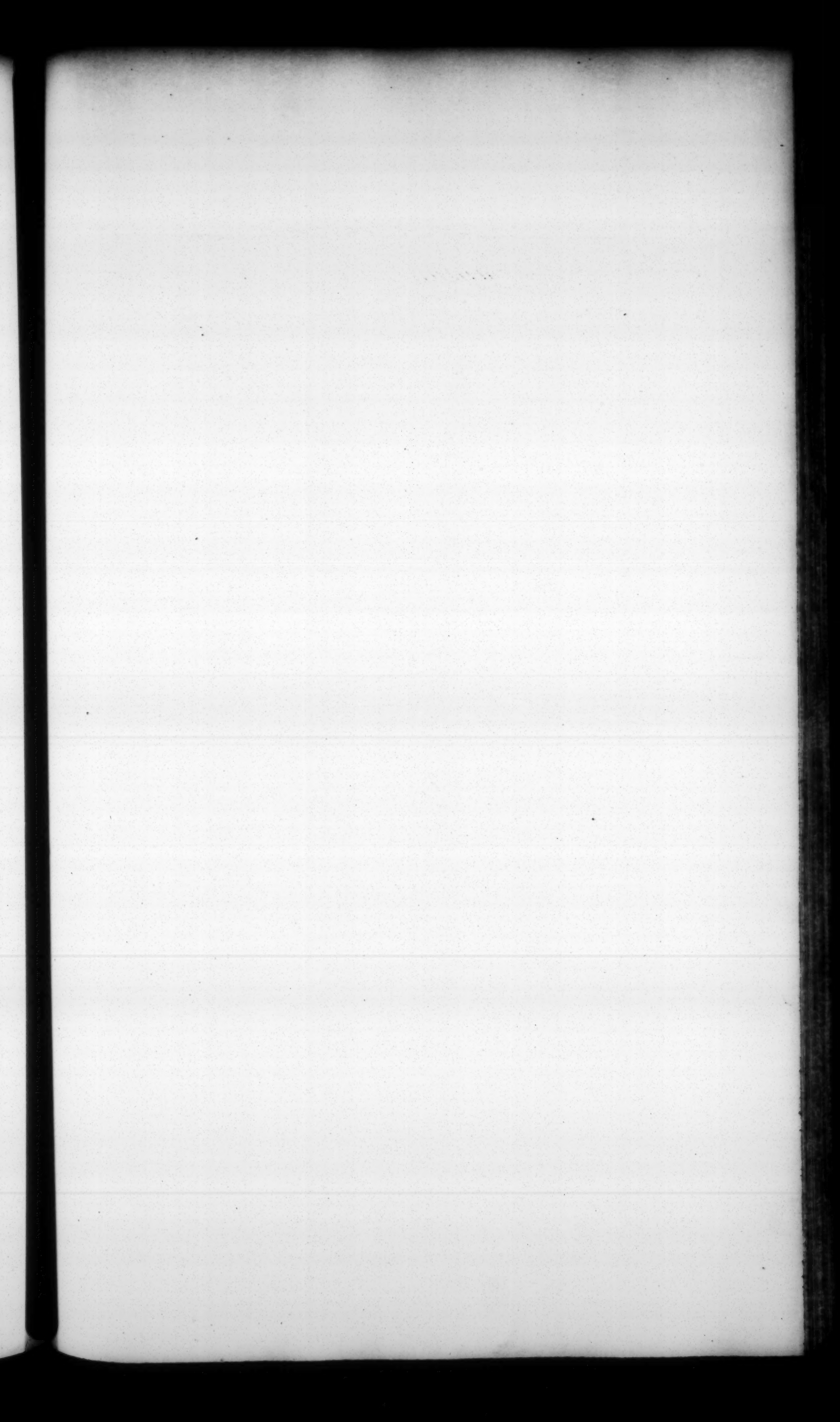


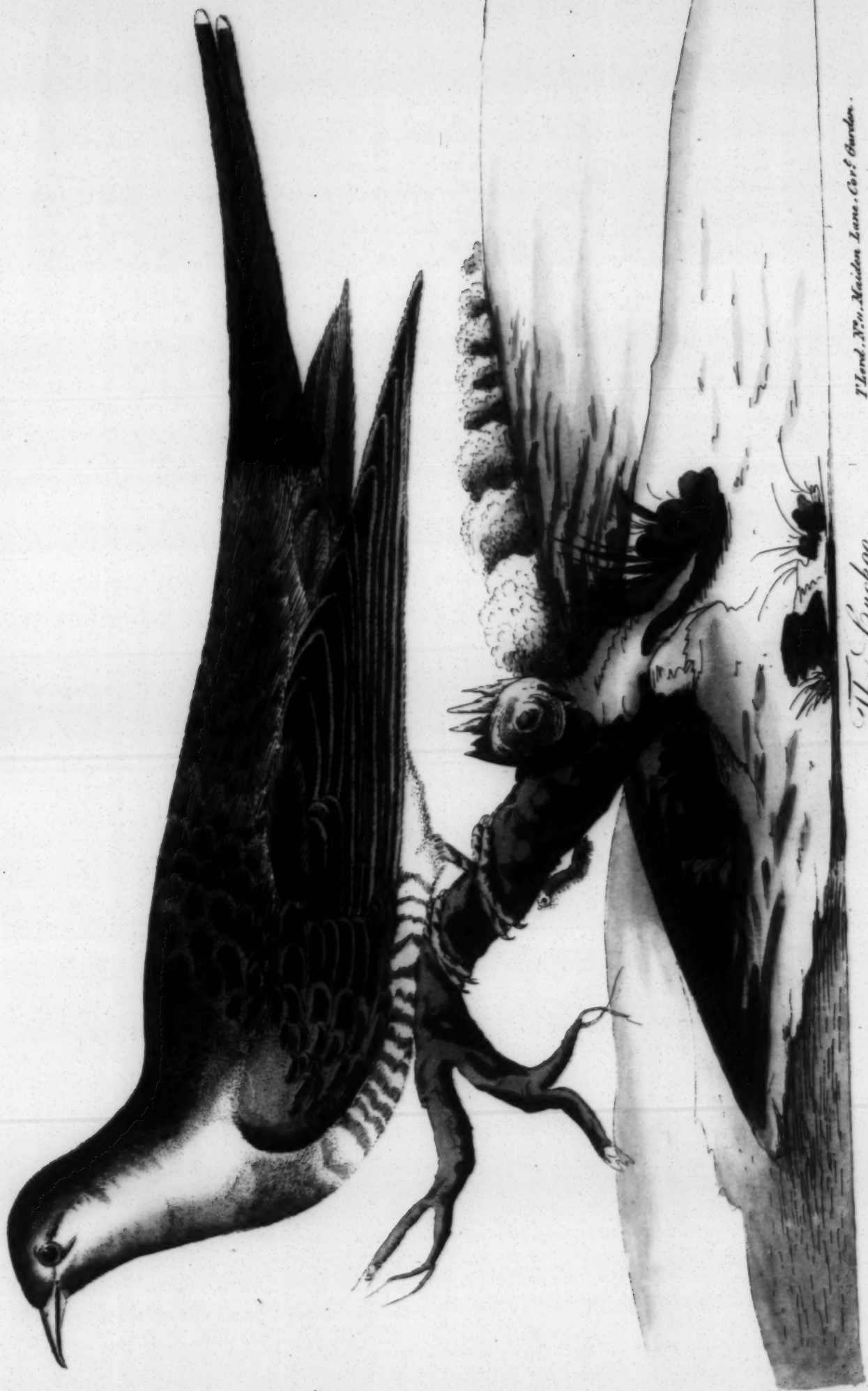


Printed, Engraved, & Published, Sept. 3, 1879. *The Martin.* By T. Lord, N^o. 11, Maiden Lane, Cor. 4th St.

The Martin.

THESE birds make their first appearance about the latter end of May, when they begin to build their nests, which is generally formed against some window, or under the eaves of houses or barns, and is composed of dirt lined with feathers; they are extremely industrious till it is finished, more than a pair being frequently at work on one nest, and when completed they will fight for it. The Sparrow will sometimes encounter them for their habitation, and often gains the victory, driving the Martins clear away. Tho' the Martin's nest is composed of dirt, they are a bird which never appear dirty in themselves, but on the contrary delicately clean; they lay five or six small eggs perfectly white, they feed on small flies, and seem peculiarly formed for flight, which renders it easy for them to procure food for themselves and young. If their nest is not disturbed they will hatch their second brood in it, or if damaged, repair it; it is common to see three or four nests built close together, and seldom unoccupied in the summer; they bestow infinite pains in working dirt together, and yet they soon complete a nest; they are extremely fond of washing themselves, and in hot weather will fly near the surface of the water and dip as they fly, apparently in danger of remaining on the water; they seldom alight on the ground except for the materials of their nest, and are particularly fond of feathering themselves on the house top when the sun shines; they associate with no birds but the Swallow, and with them not till the latter end of the summer, when they have done breeding. When the mornings begin to get cold and frosty they flock together in great numbers, uniting in a general chorus, and leaving us rather abruptly.

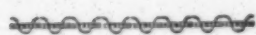




11 Lond. N. W. Maiden Lane, Carl Burden.

The Cuckoo.

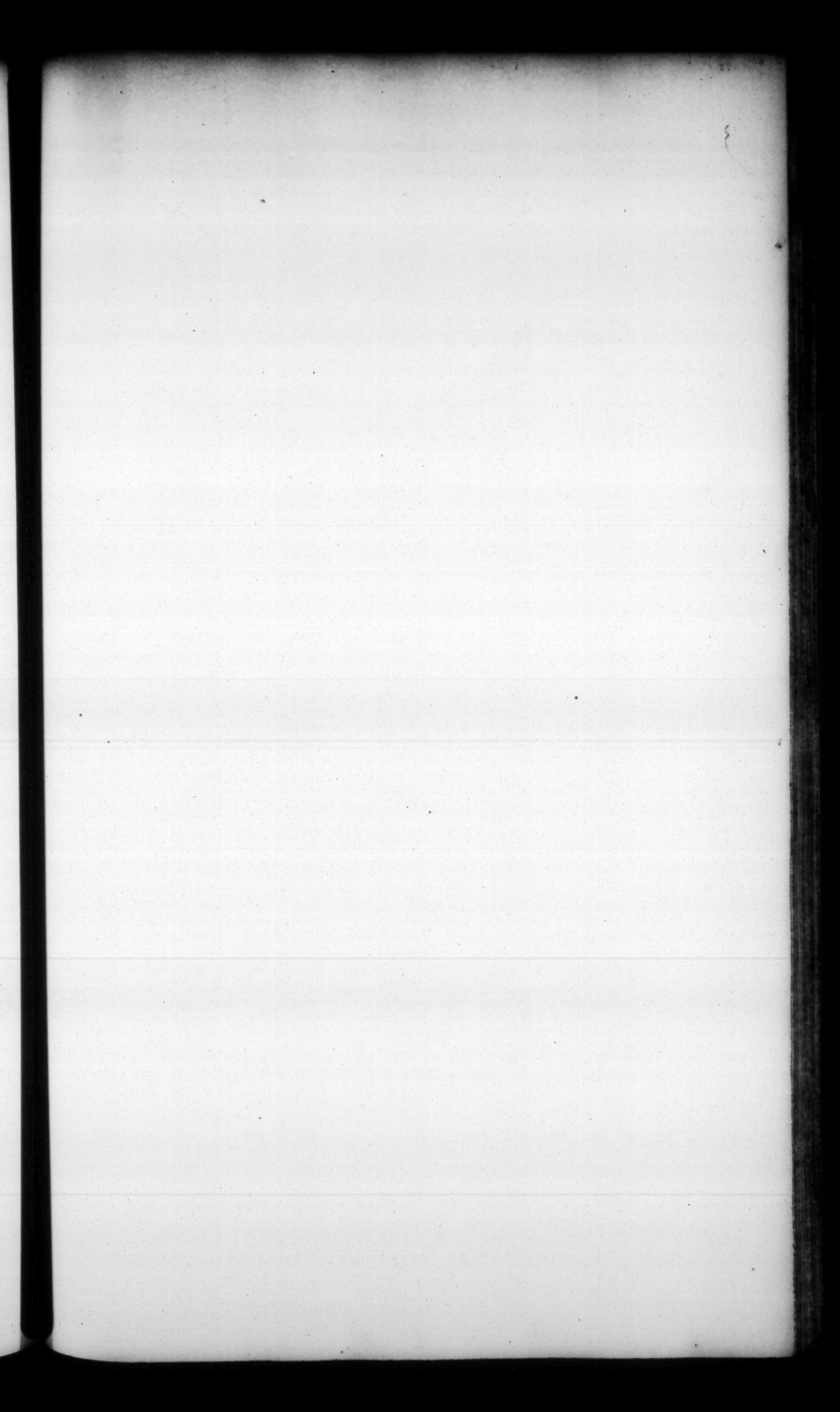
Engraved, & Published, Sept. 18, 1890. by

The Cuckoo

IS a bird whose visits are constant to us about May, and is remarkable for its song, which consists only of two notes. Being a bird not easy to approach it is seldom caught, the young ones are sometimes taken, but are unlike the old ones in shape as well as in colour: the old ones are so much alike 'tis difficult to distinguish male from female, and are frequently heard before they are seen; they are a bird in flight like the Hawk, being full of feather and poor in flesh; their food is caterpillars, &c. On a clear fine day they are generally on the tops of trees, but in hazy dull weather keep close to the hedges; they make no nest but deposit their egg, for they lay but one, in some small bird's nest, first sucking the eggs already in the nest: The Hedge Sparrow is the bird in general which they make choice of as a nurse for their offspring; I have known instances of their occupying a Water-wagtail's nest, but they prefer the former, who hatches and provides for the young Cuckoo till it encreases so much in size that the little nurse approaches its care with great terror, but still continues to fulfill the duty committed to its charge 'till the Cuckoo is able to provide for itself. The egg much resembles that of the Hawk in colour, but smaller; it is a light brown spotted with a darker colour. The Cuckoo continues its song with us but a short time.

————— While I deduce
From the first note the hollow Cuckoo sings,
The symphony of Spring; and touch a theme
Unknown to Fame, *the Passion of the Groves.*

THOMSON.

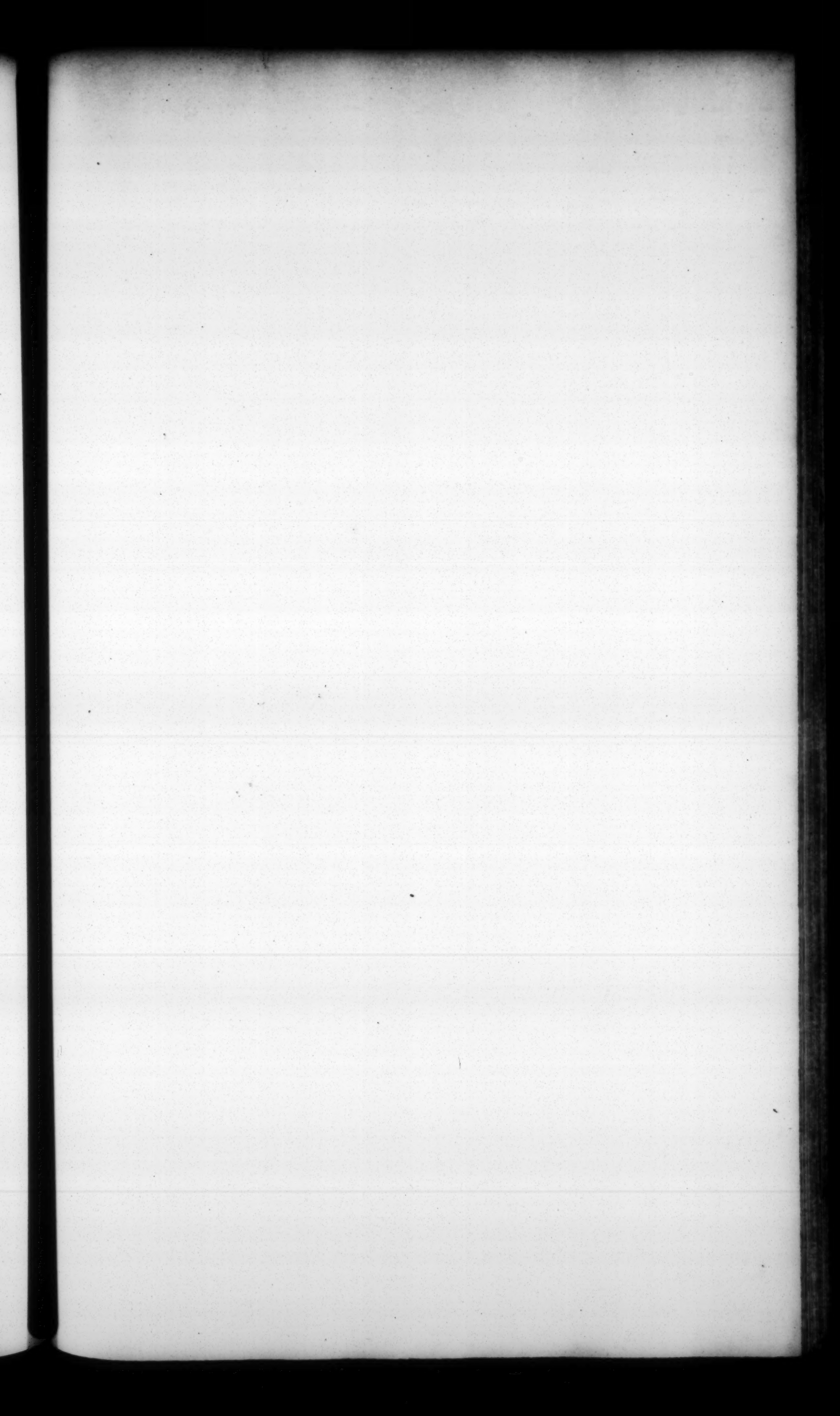




Painted, Engraved & Published, Oct 5. 1799. *The Forked-bill Chatter.* by T. Lord. N^o. 1. Maiden Lane, Cor^d. 6th.

The Furze Chatter.

THOUGH Birds of no estimation, in their plumage they excel many others. Being Birds of no song, they are never kept in cages. They are frequently to be met with by the side of brooks, in search of their food; but particularly in fields abounding with furze, where they make their Nest about two feet from the ground, which is easy to be found by the Male Bird placing himself on the top branch, near the Nest, while the Female is sitting: it is composed of fine dry grass, lined with the same, mixed with hair. They lay five Eggs, of a yellowish colour, spotted with light brown; their food Insects, Worms, and small Seed, which they swallow whole. They are seldom seen but in pairs, and associate with no other Birds, though they breed three or four times in a season. We have but few of them, and they may be easily known by their flight, which is short and quick, always spreading their tail as they fly, by which they show a clear white, like that of the Wheat Ear in a former plate. When they settle on a branch they have a motion with their tail, different from most other birds.





Printed, Engraved, & Published, Oct. 5. 1795. *The Golden Crested Wren.* by T. Lord. N^o. 1. Maiden Lane. Col. 611.

The Golden Crested Wren.

IS an inhabitant of this kingdom, but more frequently met with in Germany. The few we have with us are chiefly found in Bedfordshire; they resort principally where there are plantations of evergreens, such as firs, &c. they are small tender Birds, and not being able to endure much cold chuse the warmest parts of the kingdom, always giving the preference to a dry sandy soil. They generally build their Nest on the ground under the fir trees, in the ling or moss: it is composed of very fine wiry grass, moss, &c. lined with feathers, and sometimes covered over the top. They lay five or six Eggs, very small, and white faintly spotted with red. The Male Bird differs much in colour from the Female. They are not very apprehensive of danger, being easily caught when in search of their food, by means of a bird lime twigg placed at the end of a fishing rod, with which you may approach near enough to touch them. They feed on small Insects they find about the trees, which they are continually creeping after. They seldom fly far, and are a Bird of no song.



Mallard Duck. (Anas platyrhynchos.)

The Duck.

Engraved by J. Gould. Coloured by J. Gould.

P L A T E L X I I I .

The Duck

DESCRIBED in this plate is of the common tame kind, therefore well known. Their colours vary much from each other, and they are of different weights, as from two to three, or near four pounds each. This Bird measured from the point of the bill to the tip of the tail, fifteen inches, and round the breast fourteen. Early hatched Ducks will begin to lay about October, and continue the greatest part of the Winter, until Spring, when they want to sit. They sit four weeks; can with ease cover 14 or 15 Eggs; and prefer a situation near the water for their Nest. Their Eggs are larger, and much smoother than those of a Hen, but not so mild; some are of a blueish colour, others whiter. In places where there are many bred to supply the London markets, they take away the young as soon as hatched, put more than 100 in a pen together, and nursing them with proper food, in seven or eight weeks make them fit for the spit. At Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire, where many are bred, they will not suffer a coloured one to live, but have a breed peculiar to themselves. The feeders near Town buy all sorts, regardless of their colour; and I have known a breeder to have at one time in his possession 700 dozen for the supply of the London market.



Painted, Engraved & Published Nov. 7. 1790. by

The Twite.

T. Lord, N^o. Maiden Lane, Great Britain.

The Twite

IS an emigrant from his native country, and visits us in the winter like the Red Pole, which indeed it much resembles, except in the red on the breast, of which the Twite has not the least appearance. They are caught in great numbers, for the purpose of teaching them to draw water, and open a box for their food. They are apt scholars, and very active. Being a bird of no song, and not building with us, they are little known in the country, and called the Twite, perhaps, only by the London bird catchers. They feed on any hard seed, or thistles, and the male is something richer in colour than the female.

VIXI



By J. Gould. No. 1. Mallard Duck. Great Britain.

The Drake.

P L A T E LXV.

The Drake

IS the male bird to the Duck in the last Number, and by far the most beautiful. He is easily distinguished from the female by the colour when in full feather, by his size, and voice, which is louder than that of the Duck. These birds give excellent sport in a large pond of water when hunted by dogs; for by their frequent diving, and extreme cunning in secreting themselves when they rise on the surface of the water, the dogs are so often at fault that they are in general much fatigued, and sometimes though several are in pursuit the Duck escapes; much however depends on the excellence both of Dog and Duck. This bird sometimes dives so well, and possesses so much cunning in not having recourse to that excellent though fatiguing method of escape but in cases of necessity, that he is scarce ever taken. This excellence is only obtained by practice, and when obtained renders the bird almost invaluable to the lovers of the sport.

PLATE 177



Painted, Engraved, & Published, Nov. 7, 1799.

The Nut-hatch; by T. Lord. N^o. 1. Maiden Lane. Covent Garden.

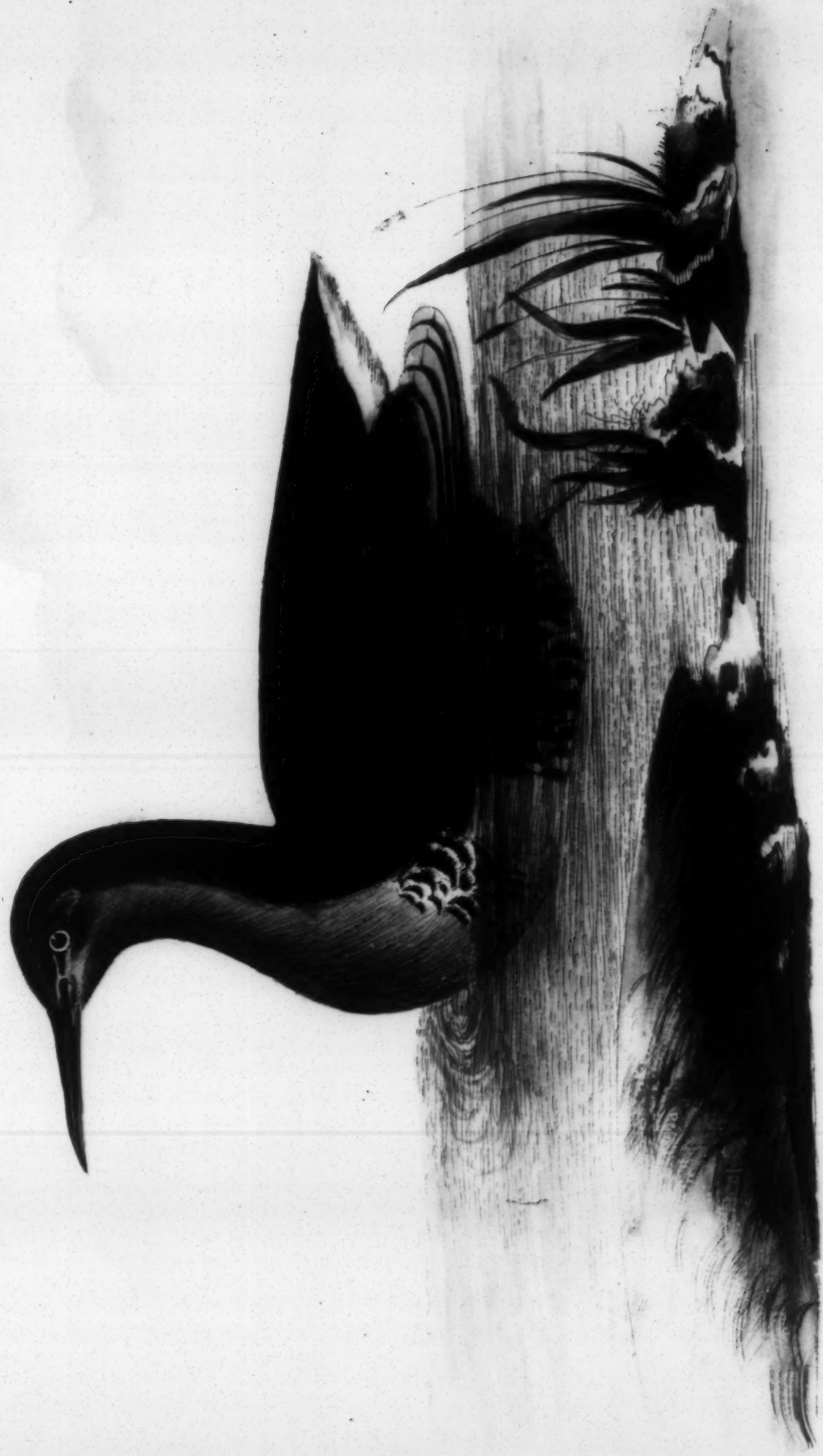
The Nut-Hatch

CLAIMS a place with the Creepers, though of the larger kind. They are beautiful in their colour, but male and female differ very little. They build their nest in the hole of a tree, composed of a little dried grass or any rubbish, not making it in any kind of form. In their manner of creeping about the trees, these birds much resemble the Wood Pecker, only they will run as fast down as up, in search of food. At certain seasons of the year they feed on any insects they can find on the bark of the trees, and in the Autumn resort to the nut trees and feed on the kernels, which they get at by laying the nut between two branches and making a hole from whence they obtain the kernel. They do not take to the nut trees till they are quite ripe; and sometimes feed on beech nuts, &c. They have a note peculiar to themselves, but no song; they somewhat resemble the Quail; and their flight is short and quick, like that of the Spotted Wood Pecker.

PLATE

1

The Plate



The Water Rail. by T. Ford. Maiden Lane. Court Garden.
Painted, Engraved & Published by T. Ford, 1840.

P L A T E LXVII.

The Water Rail.

BUT few of this species are found in small rivers or ponds; they are in greater abundance where other water-fowl generally resort, and where flags and rushes are in plenty, as being their best shelter. They fly but little, and as soon as approached hide themselves in the rushes or dive under water, and will continue down for a considerable time. They are known in some places by the name of *Dob Chick*, and take that name from their fondness for diving. Their toes are long, but not webbed; their nests are composed of dry rushes and bits of sticks supported by the flags, and not more than three or four inches from the surface of the water.

1871-1872



Engraved, Engraved & Published, Decr 14. 1799.

The Bramblefinch. by F. Lewis. Maiden Lane. Covent Garden.

P L A T E LXVIII.

The Bramble Finch

IS a bird of passage, and visits us only in the winter. It is a bird not generally known, having no song, nor are they numerous. It is for the beauty of their plumage only that the bird catchers who supply the London markets are attentive to them, a bird in full feather frequently selling for two shillings. The male and female differ much in colour. They frequent garden grounds near Town, and sometimes associate with the Chaffinch, feeding on the same food. They are hardy, strong, and easily tamed.

1771



Printed, Engraved & Published Dec'r 1792.

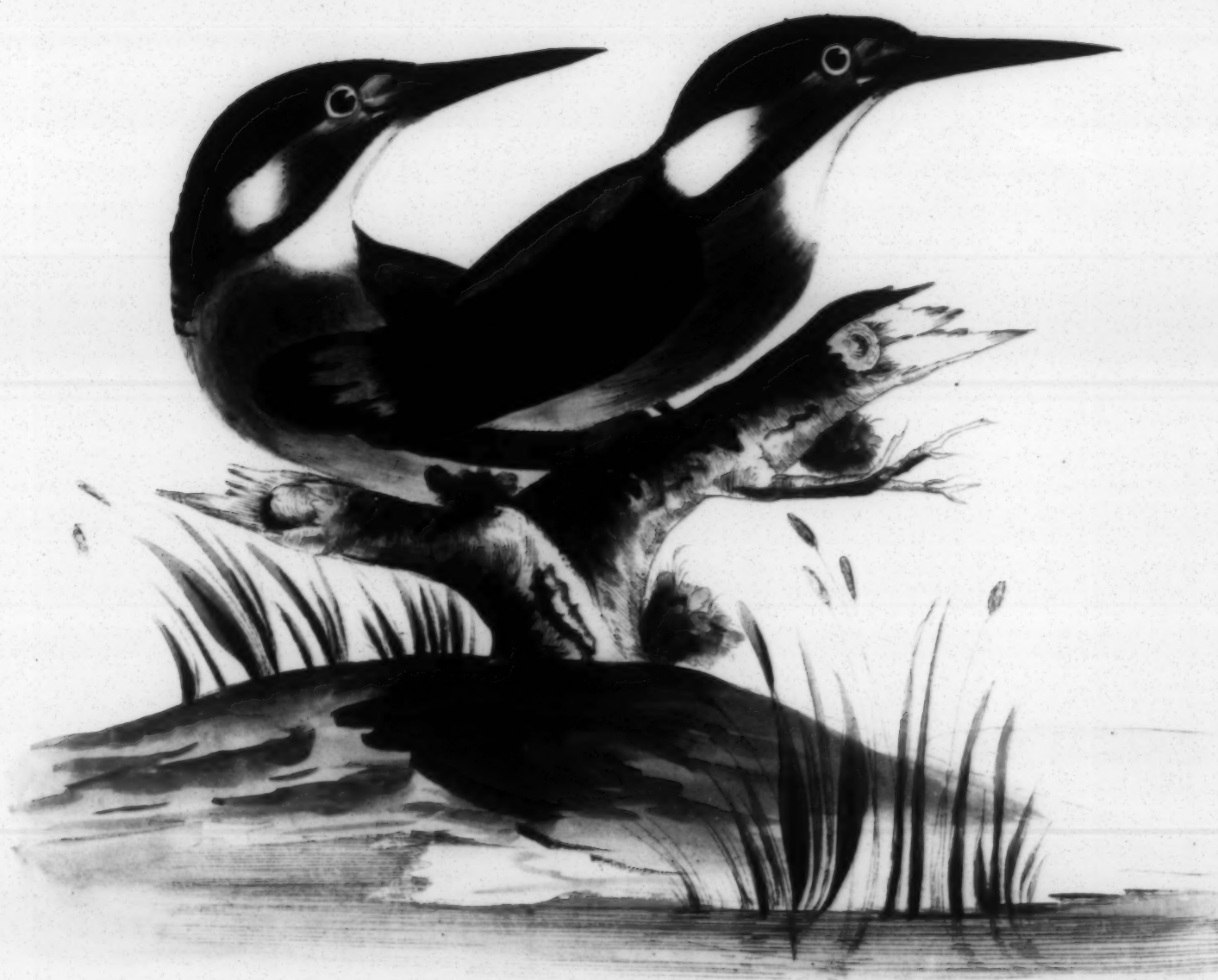
The Nightingale by T. Lord, Master of the Art of Engraving.

PLATE LXIX.

The Nightingale

IS one of our birds of passage, and visits us in the Summer, coming early in May: the Male bird first makes his appearance, at which time the bird catcher is generally in search for him, being the only period he is certain of taking him, as the female is so like the male that they can scarcely be distinguished the one from the other. The method of catching the Nightingale is with a net trap made for that purpose:—When the bird-catcher finds the place he is in (and he always keeps in the same spot) he drives him gently from it, and near to it takes up the turf, and places the trap on the earth baited with a meal worm; this being done he goes softly below the place where the bird rested, and again drives him back to his former situation; when there he soon sees the bait, and instantly strikes at it and is taken: the long feathers of his wings are then tied together that he may not beat himself against the wires of his cage; for his food lamb's heart chopt fine is given him, with a meal worm or two alive, soon after which he feeds on chopt meat alone. The cage must be kept dark by placing a green cloth before it. The Nightingale is the most melodious bird we have, and is kept in rooms to teach the young Canary Birds to sing; but more especially in Germany, from whence this country is supplied with many hundreds of Canary Birds annually. Their nests are in the most secret and hidden places, and composed of any dead leaves, moss, &c. they can find, and lined with the same materials. They lay five eggs.

PLATE XXXI



Painted, Engraved & Published Jan^y 1791. *The Kingfisher.* by T. Lord, Maiden Lane, Cor^l War^o.

P L A T E LXX.

The King Fisher.

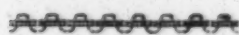
IN their plumage are the most beautiful of the feathered tribe, displaying variety of shades as they move. We have but few of them, and those we have frequent our small rivers, and are only to be seen in pairs. They feed on fish, in which their whole time is almost employed; and though they eat them whole, they do not digest the bones, but disgorge, as the Owl does, in the place where they make choice of to deposit their eggs, for they make no nest, but frequently take to some deserted Rat's hole; which is sometimes overflowed with water, and destroys the brood. By the quantity of bones that have been found, it has been supposed by many that they build their nests with them; but this is erroneous. I have known six or sometimes seven young ones taken, but not more. I have had two of these birds, which differ not in colour, but in their legs—one has been a full orange, the other black, as described in the Plate. The middle claw, and the outer one, are divided no farther than to the first joint. Their legs are small, and very short. They are birds of no song; but remarkable silent and quiet. They associate with no other birds; but will sit on the branch of a willow-tree, over the water, when they are not in search of food. Their colours, though the most brilliant, will hold their lustre longer than that of any other kind of bird.



Printed, Engraved & Published, Jan. 1796.

The Wren. by Thomas Mordaunt, Esq. del. & sculp.

The Wry Neck



TAKES its name from its frequently twisting its neck almost round. Is supposed to be a bird of passage, as the first of its appearance is in the spring, and but a few days before the Cuckoo; and continues with us only the summer season. This bird is called the Cuckoo's attendant; it is a bird of no song, but has a loud shriek; which it repeats quick. It has a long round tongue, like that of a Wood-pecker, hard at the end. Its food are insects, and ants in particular; and, as Mr. Pennant observes, by laying his tongue across a path, in which ants are continually passing, it is soon covered with them, when it draws it into its mouth; and, by this means, supplies itself with great numbers. The female differs not from the male in colour. They have also two claws behind, and two before, like the Wood-peckers, and much resemble them in their flight, feeding, and building. Their nest is composed of dried grass, and is built in a hole of a tree: they lay white eggs, the shell of which is so thin and transparent, that the yolk may be seen through it.

THE

THE



The Hood Pigeon.

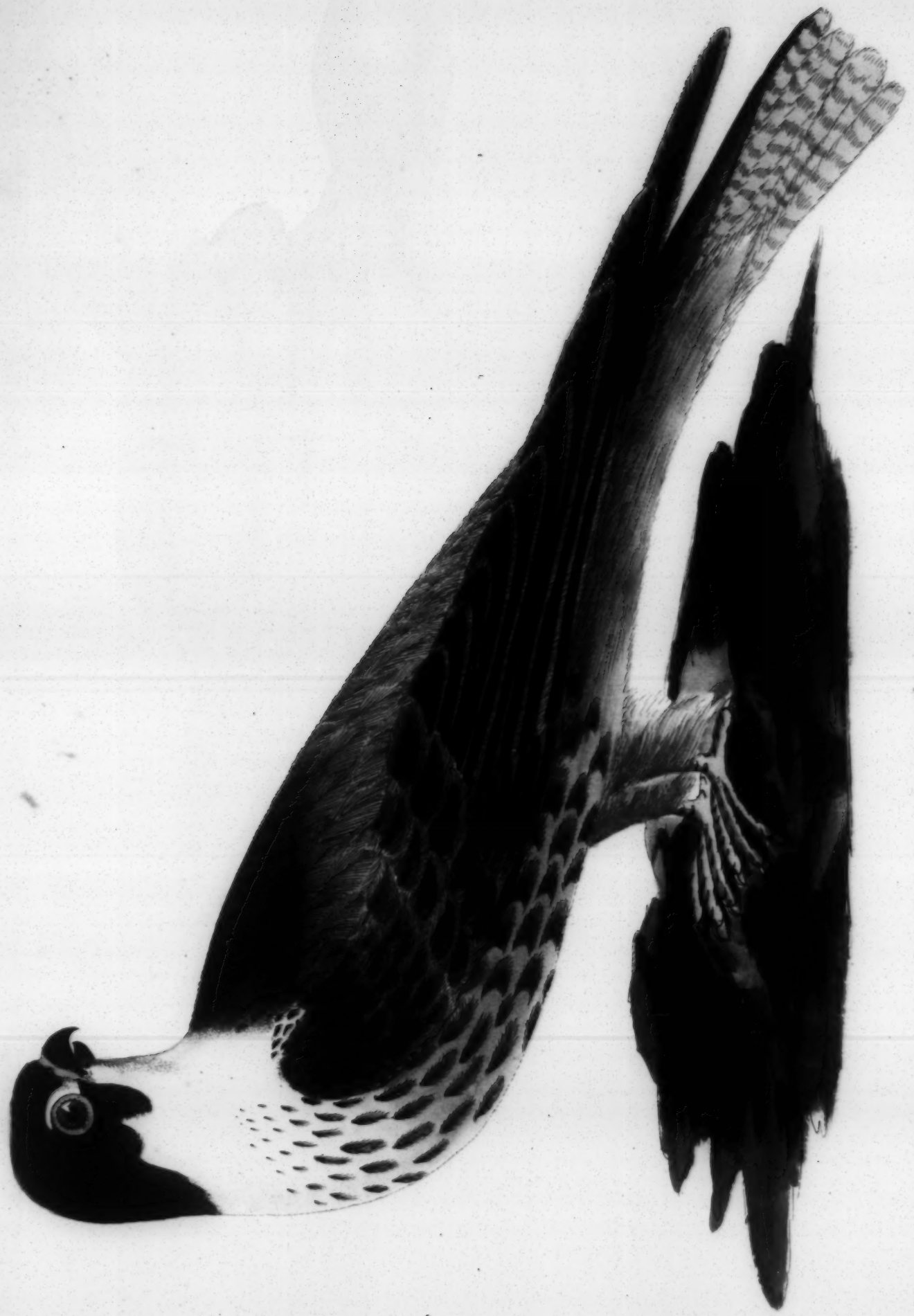
Painted, Engraved, & Coloured by

Thos. Hudson Esq. Col. 1840

The Wood Pigeon

IS reduced, for the conveniency of the Work. The bird, from which this was taken, measured fifteen inches from the point of the bill to the tip of the tail, and twelve inches round the breast: we have them in great plenty in the winter season; they flock together, and resort to the turnip fields for food; at which time they are very fat, and are caught for the London markets in great numbers. They are very shy birds, and not easy to approach; at the sight of any one, though at a distance, they are all instantly on the wing. They are swift in their flight, and resemble our tame Pigeons, in some degree; but do not differ in their colour, as they do, but are all marked the same. In the spring they separate, and appear only in pairs. Their nests, which are frequently built by the side of a tree, and are composed of a few small sticks, so loosely put together, that the eggs, which are two in number, and white like the common Pigeon, may almost be seen through. If not disturbed, will return to the same tree next year. They are so wild, though hatched under a tame Pigeon, that if you offer to take them, they will strike with their wings with great force.

PLATE IX



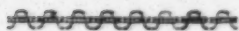
The Hobby Hawk.

From a drawing by J. A. Audubon.

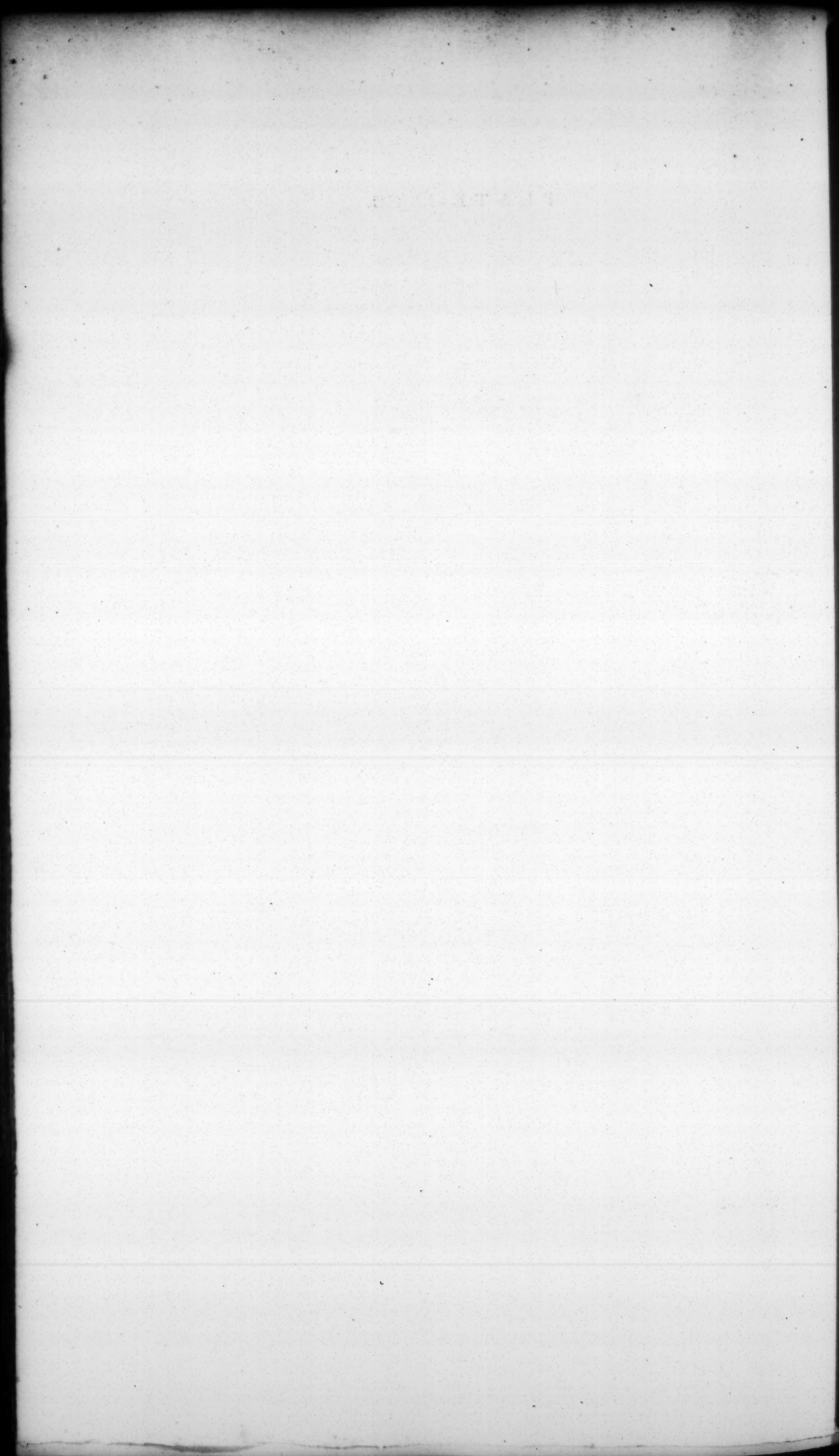
Engraved by J. H. B. Smith, March 1844.

P L A T E LXXIII.

The Hobby Hawk.



THESE are birds of prey, and are the most beautiful of their kind. Their food consists wholly of small birds; and their nature is such that they are a terror to birds of a much larger kind, and are known by the name of the Dead Hawk, from the certainty of their taking whatever they attempt; as they are much more secure in obtaining their prey than any other of that class. They build their nests in the woods, and generally make choice of the loftiest trees for the purpose: it is composed of rotten sticks, lined with wool, in which they lay five eggs, nearly round, and splashed with brown. They are of a hardy nature, and commonly rear all their young. They are frequently kept in gardens, to preserve the fruit from the small birds, who dare not approach where so fatal an enemy inhabits. There are many brought to the London markets, when young, for it is difficult to take the old ones. The bird, in this Plate, is reduced for the convenience of the work. It measured from the bill to the tip of the tail fifteen inches, and round the breast nine inches.





Printed, Engraved, & Published March, 1794.

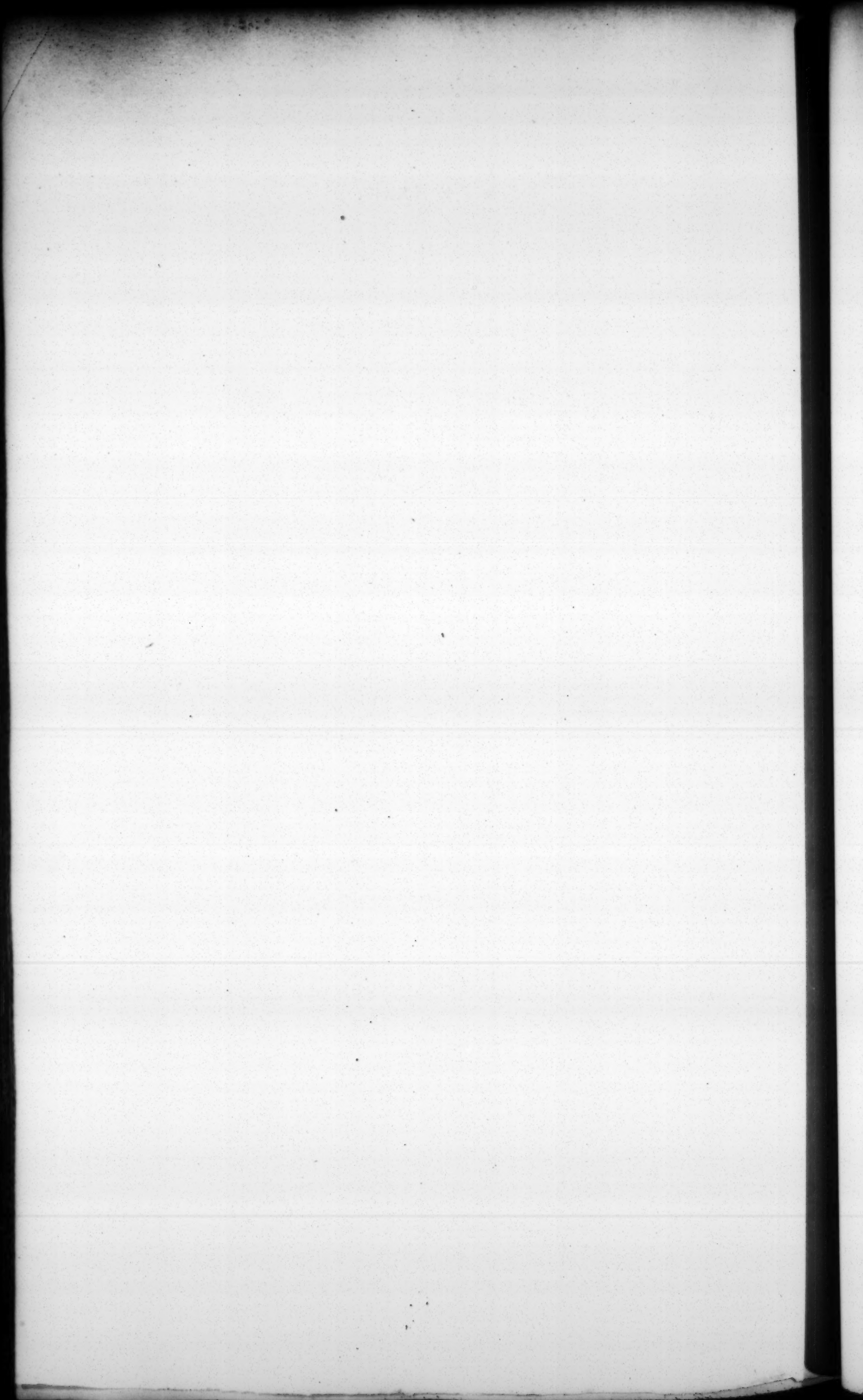
The Long tail'd tit by T. Ford, Maiden Lane, Covent Garden.

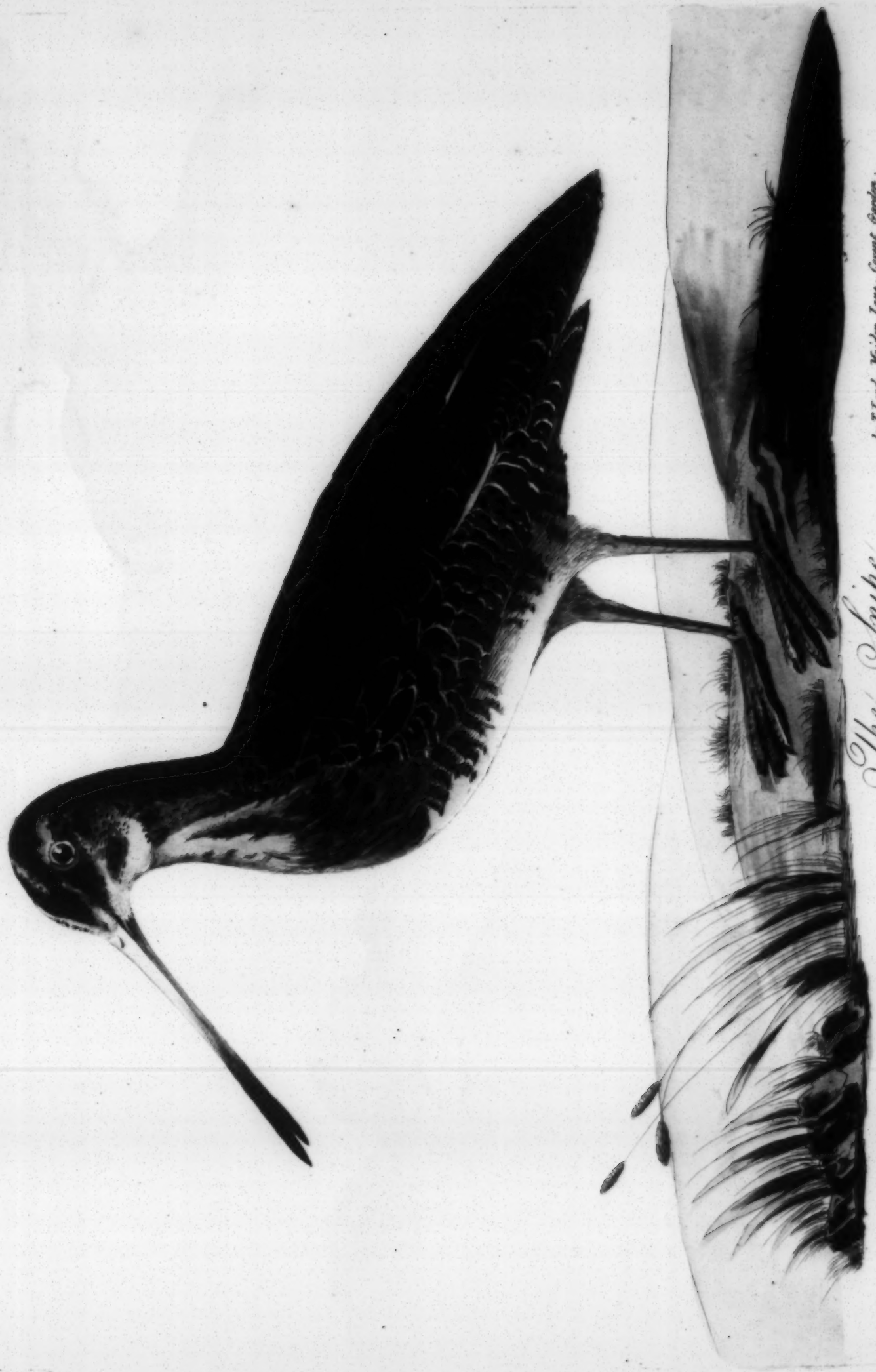
P L A T E LXXIV.

Long Tail Tit



IS one of the smallest of its kind, and differs much in colour from any of that class. They inhabit the sides of woods and lanes, and do not disperse, as most other small birds do. It is a bird of no song, but may be easily distinguished by its continual squeaking. Its nest is of a most curious structure, being composed of moss, and so peculiarly interwoven with the branch in which it is built, that it cannot be removed without taking the branch with it; it is lined with feathers, in which are deposited from nine to fifteen eggs; which are very small, spotted with small red spots indiscriminately all over. It feeds on small insects, which the hedges afford, and is incessantly on the move.



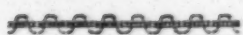


The Curlew.

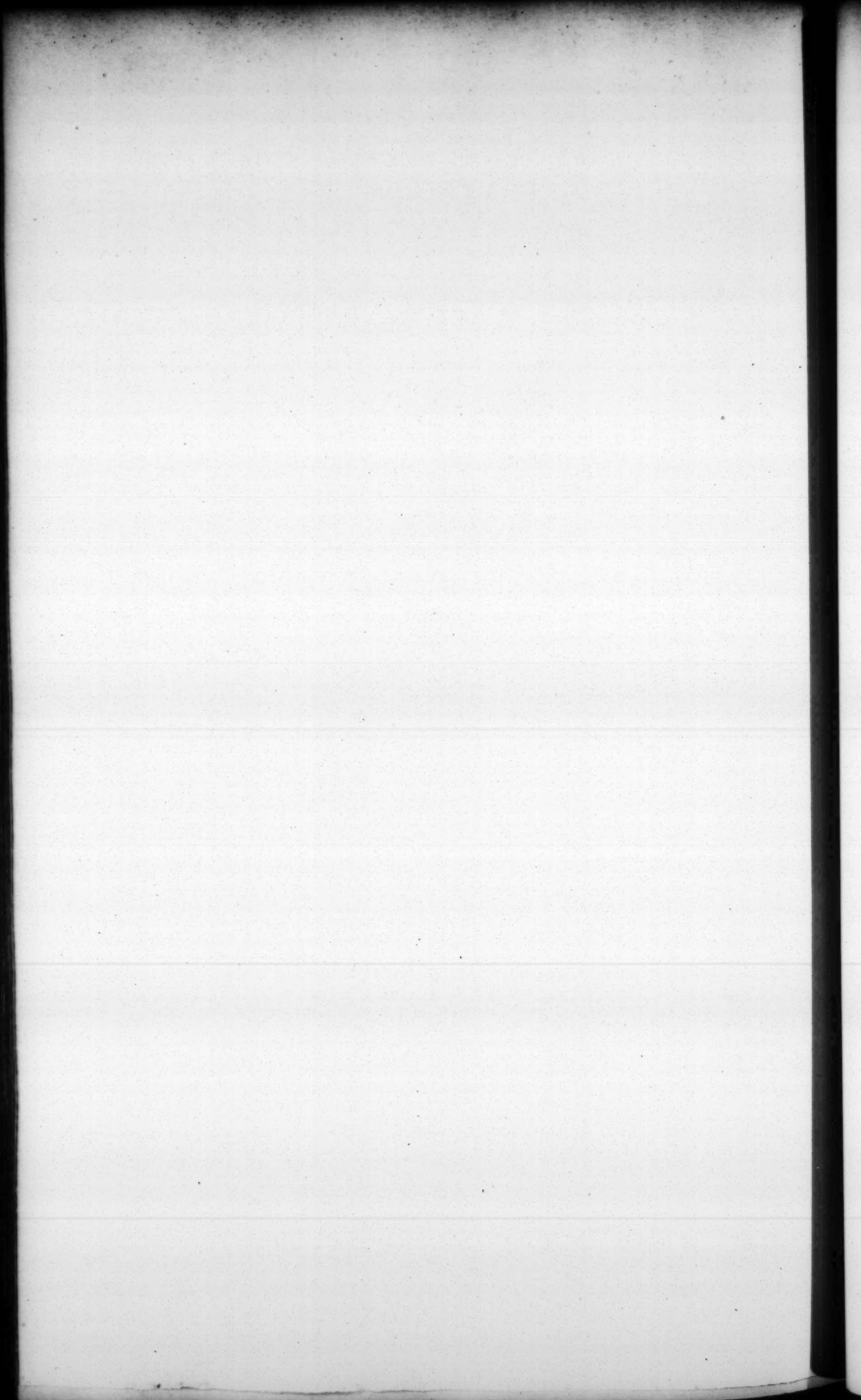
By T. Lloyd, Maiden Lane, Great Britain.

Printed by Edmund K. Piddell, March 1894.

The Snipe,



HERE delineated, is given the full size of the bird. It is a bird so well known that it requires little to be said of it. It visits us only in the winter, being a bird of passage. It frequents our swampy grounds, small brooks, &c. and lives wholly upon suction; are very seldom to be seen, except in flight, in which they are remarkable swift. It is a bird most difficult to be shot; but of a peculiar flavour, for which it is much esteemed.



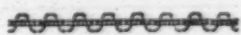


Painted, Engraved & Published June 1794.

The Ruff. by T. Lard, Maiden Lane, Cor^e Garden

PLATE LXXVI.

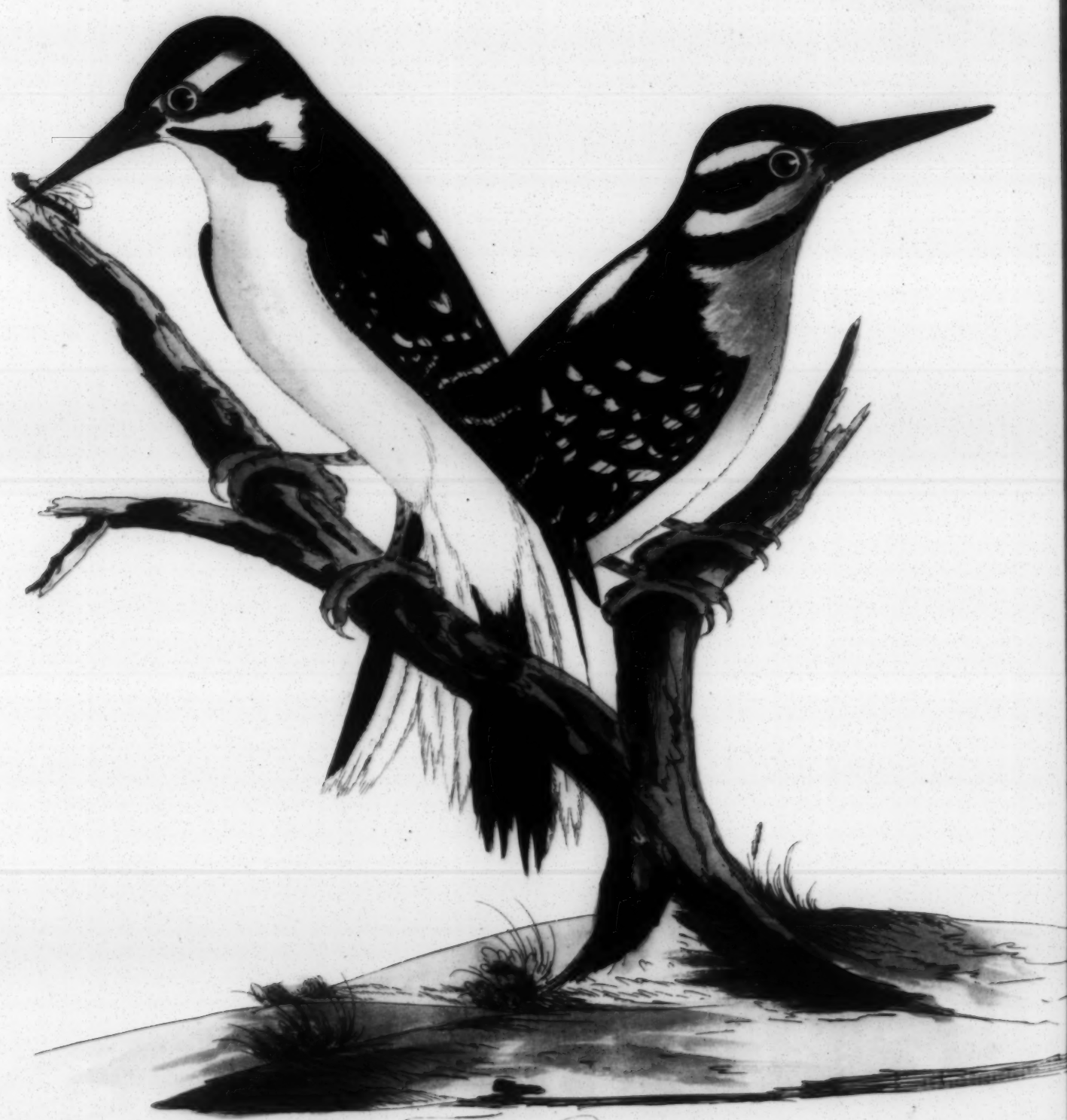
The Ruff.



THE Males or Ruffs, assume such variety of colours in several parts of their plumage, that it is scarce possible to see two alike; but the great length of their feathers on the neck, that gives name to them, at once distinguishes these from all other birds. On the back of their necks is a singular tuft of feathers, spreading wide on both sides: these, and the former, in some are black, in others white, yellow, or ferruginous; but this tuft and the ruffs frequently differ in the same birds. The feathers, that bear an uniformity of colouring through each individual of this sex, are the coverts of the wings, which are brown, inclining to ash-colour; the feathers on the breast, which are often black or dusky; the four exterior feathers of the tail, which are of a cinerious brown; and the four middle, which are barred with black and brown: the bill is black towards the end, red at the base. The legs in all are yellow. In moulting, they lose the character of the long neck feathers, nor do they recover it till, after their return to the fens, the spring following; it is then they regain that ornament, and at the same time a set of small, pear-shaped, yellow pimples, break out in great numbers on their face, above the bill. The stags, or male birds of the first year, want these marks, and have sometimes been mistaken for a new species of *Tringa*; but they may be easily known by the colours of the coverts of the wings, and the middle feathers of the tail. The older the birds are the more numerous the pimples, and the fuller and the longer the ruffs. The length of the Male to the tip of the tail is one foot, the breadth two.—*Pennant's Description.*

PLATE LXXVI

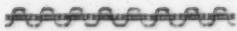
1893



Painted, Engraved & Published June 1841. *The Woodpecker*, by T. Lord, Maiden Lane, Cor^d & Grand.

P L A T E LXXVIII.

Middle Wood-Pecker.

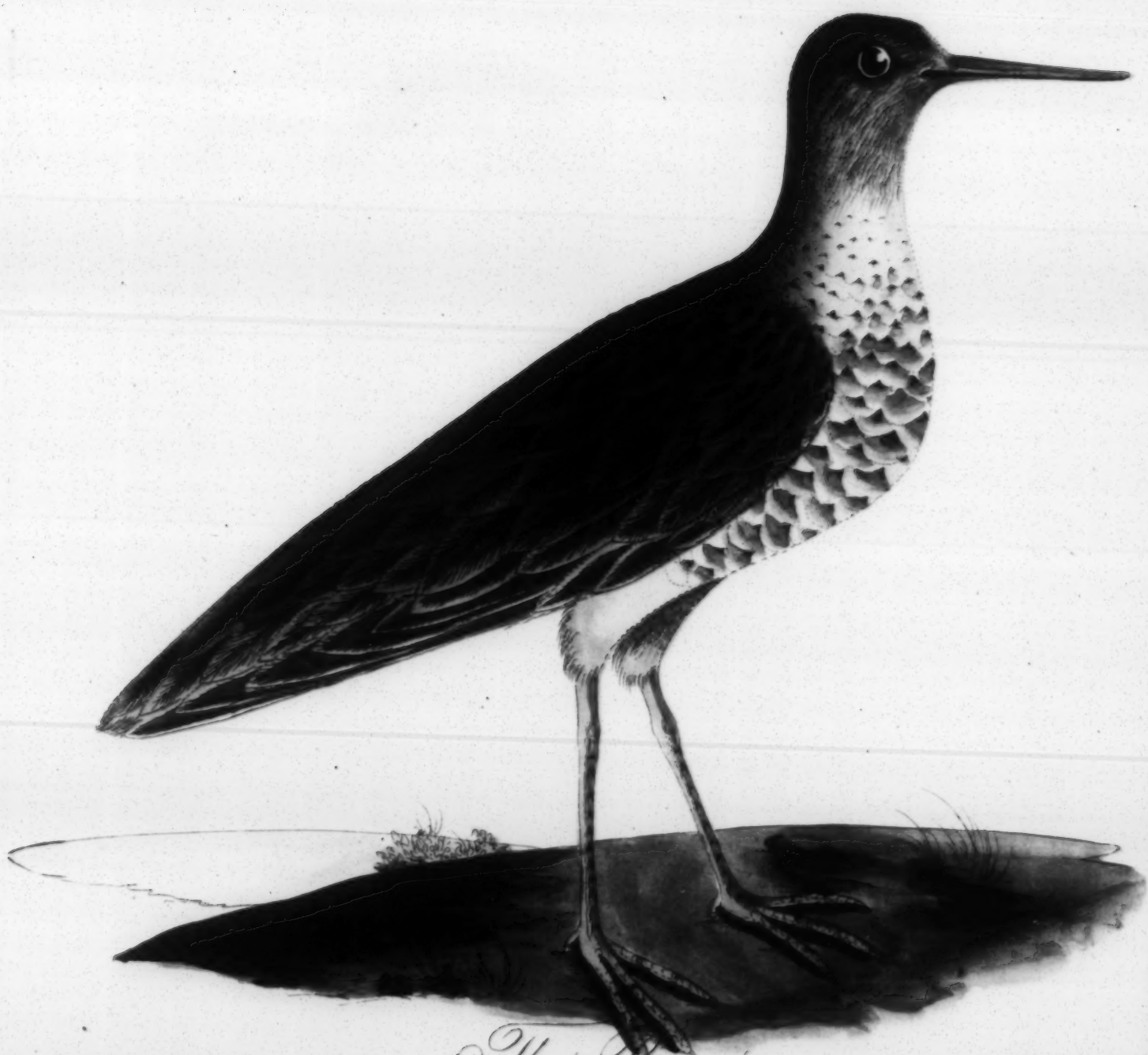


THIS species agrees with the preceding in colours and size, excepting, that the crown of the head in this is of a rich crimson; the crown of the head in the male of the former black; and the crimson is in the form of a bar in the hind part. Birds, thus marked, have been shot in Lancashire, and other parts of England; but I am doubtful whether they are varieties or distinct species.—*Pennant's Description.*

PLATE LXXVIII.

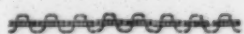
Middle Wood-Peter.





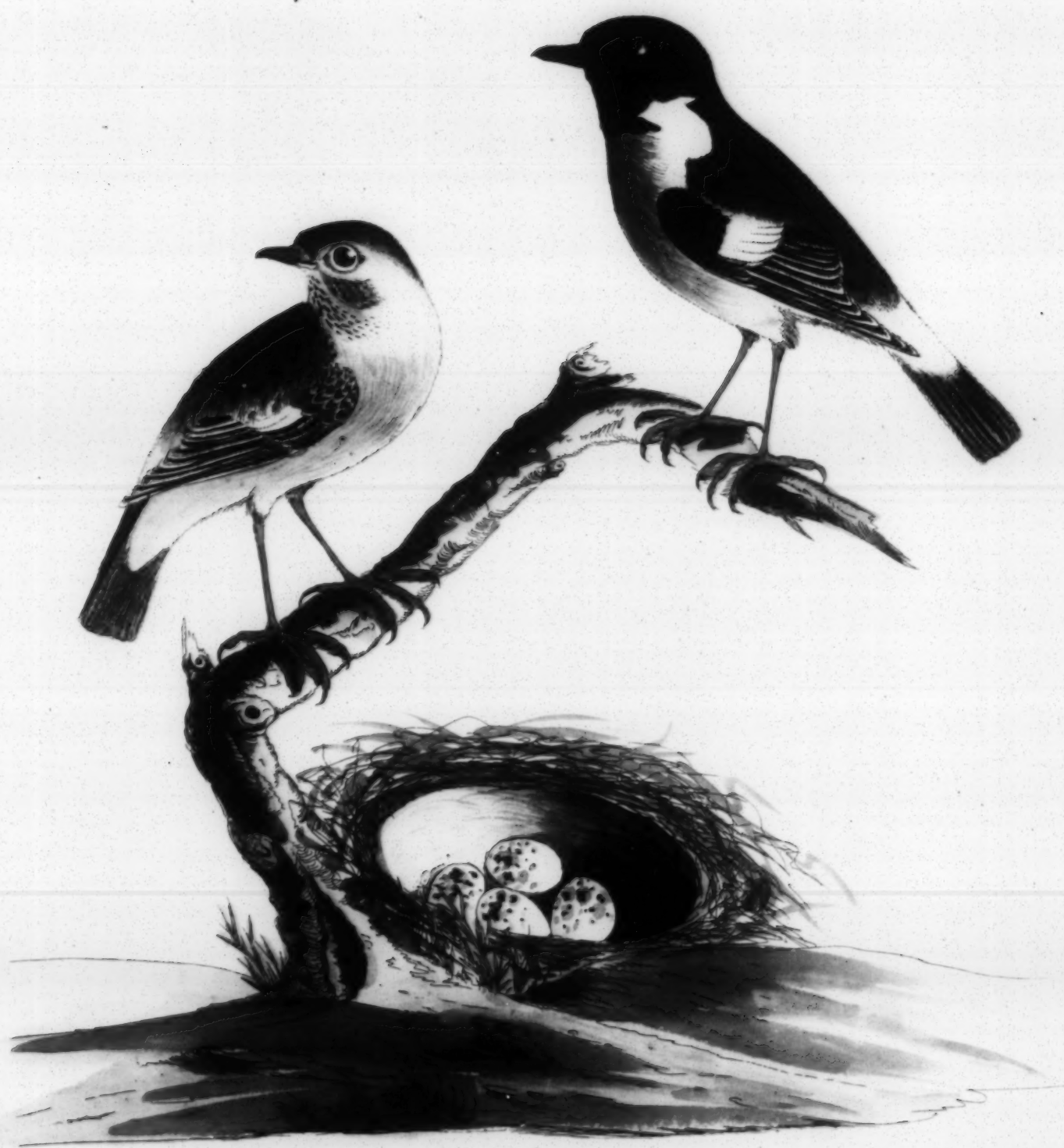
Printed, Engraved & Published June 1794.

The Reeve, by T. Lord, Maiden Lane, Cor. Garden.

The Reeve.

THE Reeve measures ten inches, the breadth nineteen: the weight of the former, when just taken, is seven ounces and a half; and of the latter only four. The Reeves never change their colour, which are pale brown; the back spotted with black, slightly edged with white; the tail brown, the middle feathers spotted with black; the breast and belly white; the legs of a pale dull yellow. These birds appear in the fens in the earliest spring, and disappear about Michaelmas. The Reeves lay four eggs in a tuft of grass, the first week in May, and sit about a month: the eggs are white, marked with large rusty spots. Fowlers avoid, in general, the taking of the females, not only because they are smaller than the males, but that they may be left to breed. Soon after their arrival the males begin to hill; that is, to collect on some dry bank, near a splash of water, in expectation of the females, who resort to them. Each male keeps possession of a small piece of ground, which it runs round till the grass is worn quite away, and nothing but a naked circle is left. When a female lights the Ruffs immediately fall to fighting. I find a vulgar error, that Ruffs must be fed in the dark, lest they should destroy each other by fighting on admission of light. The truth is, every bird takes its stand in the room as it would in the open fen: if another invades its circle, an attack is made, and battle ensues; they make use of the same action in fighting as a cock, place their bills to the ground, and spread their ruffs. I have set a whole room full a fighting, by making them move their stations; and, after quitting the place, by peeping through a crevice, seen them resume their circles, and grow pacific. When a fowler discovers one of those hills, he places his net overnight; which is of the same kind as those that are called clap or day nets, only it is generally single, and is about fourteen yards long and four broad.—The fowler resorts to his stand, at day-break, at the distance of one, two, three, or four hundred yards from the nets, according to the time of the season: for the later it is the shyer the birds grow. He then makes his first pull, taking such birds as he finds within reach: after that he places his stuffed birds, or stales, to entice those that are continually traversing the fen. An old fowler told me he once caught forty-four birds at one haul; and, in all, six dozen that morning. When the stales are set, seldom more than two or three are taken at a time. A fowler will take forty or fifty dozen in a season.—These birds are found in Lincolnshire, the Isle of Ely, and in the East Riding of Yorkshire*; where they are taken in nets, and fattened for the table with bread and milk, hemp-seed, and sometimes boiled wheat; but if expedition is required sugar is added, which will make them, in a fortnight's time, a lump of fat. They then sell for two shillings, and two shillings and six-pence a-piece. Judgment is required in taking the proper time for killing them, when they are at the highest pitch of fatness; if that is neglected the birds are apt to fall away. The method of killing them is by cutting off their heads with a pair of scissars: the quantity of blood that issues is very great, considering the size of the bird: they are dressed like the Woodcock with their intestines, and when killed at the critical time, say the epicures, are reckoned the most delicious of all morsels.—*Pennant's Description.*

* They visit a place called Martin Mere, in Lancashire, the latter end of March or beginning of April; but do not continue there above three weeks.



The Stone chatter.

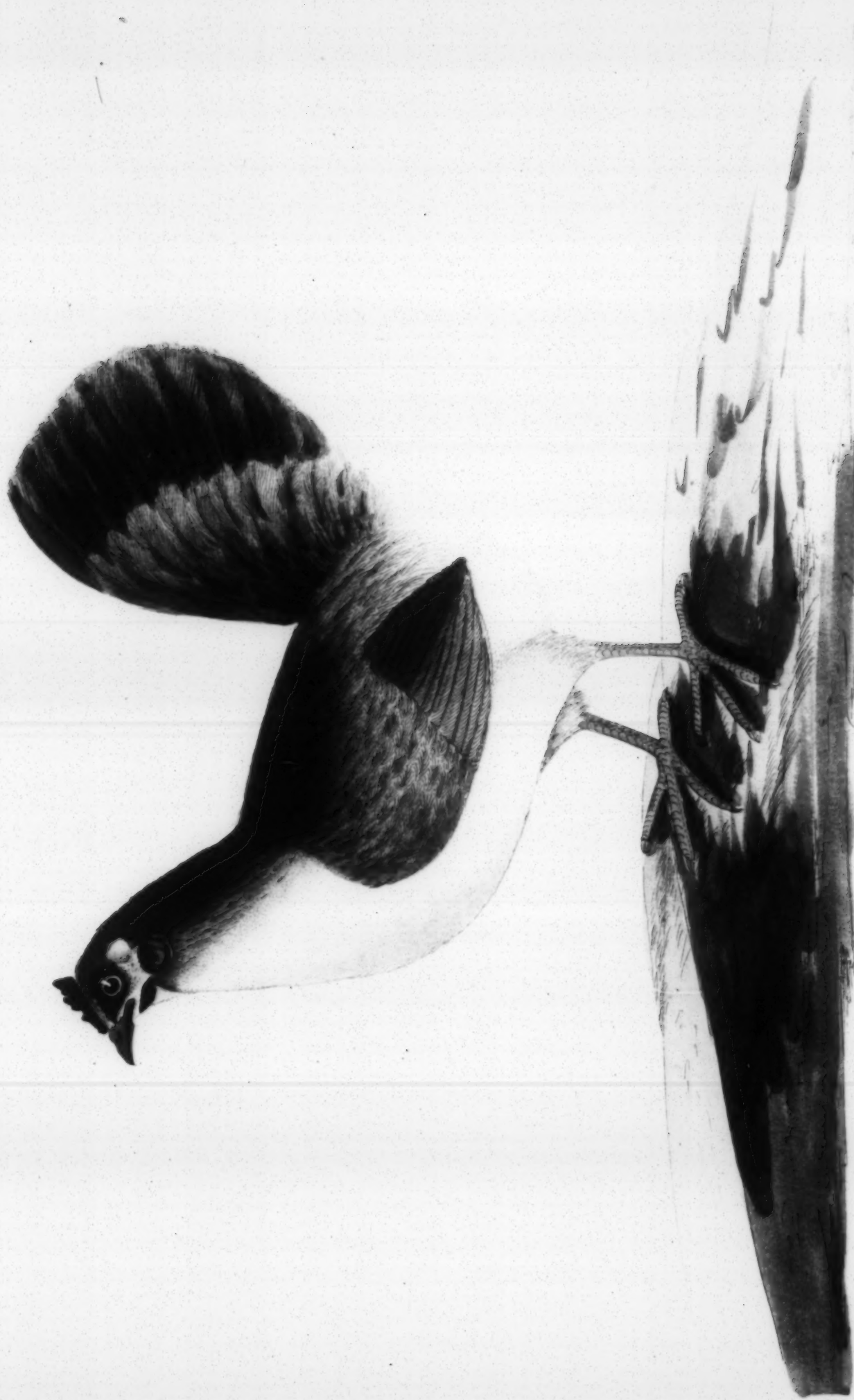
Painted, Engraved & Published June 1. 1794. by T. Lund. Maiden Lane. Carver's.

PLATE LXXIX.

The Stone Chatter.

THE Stone Chats are well known: they frequent commons and other places where furze bushes abound, in which they make choice for their nest, which is composed of dried grass, with hair intermixed, and not very correct in its structure.

In their manner and haunts they resemble the Furze Chats, but not in colour. They are also much shorter in their feathers. They lay five eggs; and, like other small birds, sit fourteen days. They feed upon any insects they can get, such as beetles, earwigs, &c. They are found near the place they first take to, for they will not go far from the spot; but are at any time to be met with in the breeding season.



The Hen.

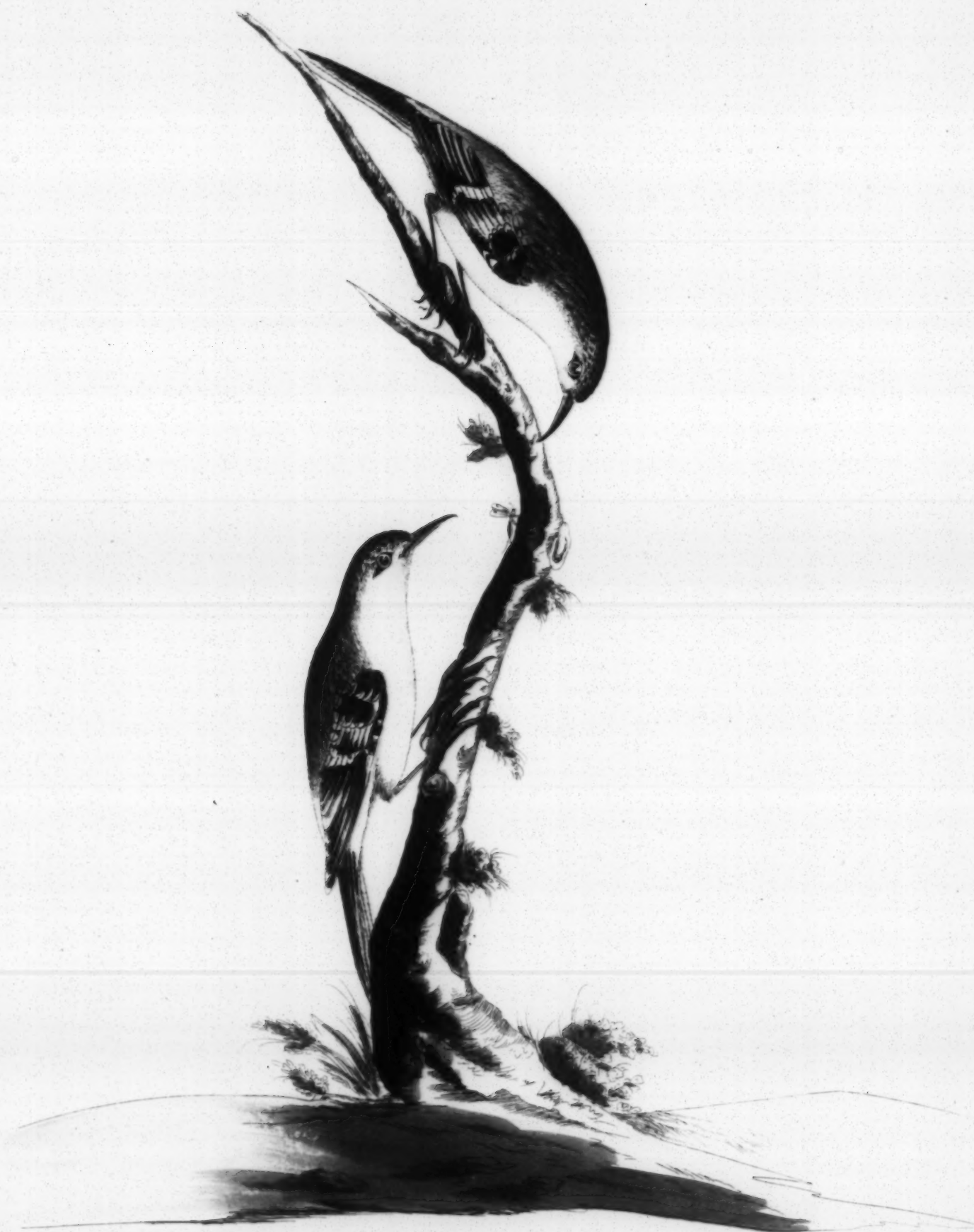
Painted, Engraved & Published June 1794, by T. Ford, Maiden Lane, Col. Bird.

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PLATE LXXX.

The Hen,

HERE given, is of the game; but as all the species are well known, it would be needless to say much upon this description. It may be sufficient to add, that these Hens differ principally from others in their shape, being closer in their feather, lighter in their make, and, in general, do not shew that variety of colour which the common yard fowls exhibit. The richness of colour in the neck distinguishes the Hen of this species from others of the genus. They are the best breed for the yard, although they are disposed to fight and worry one another when chickens; but the same stock should not be continued more than three or four years, as it will degenerate.



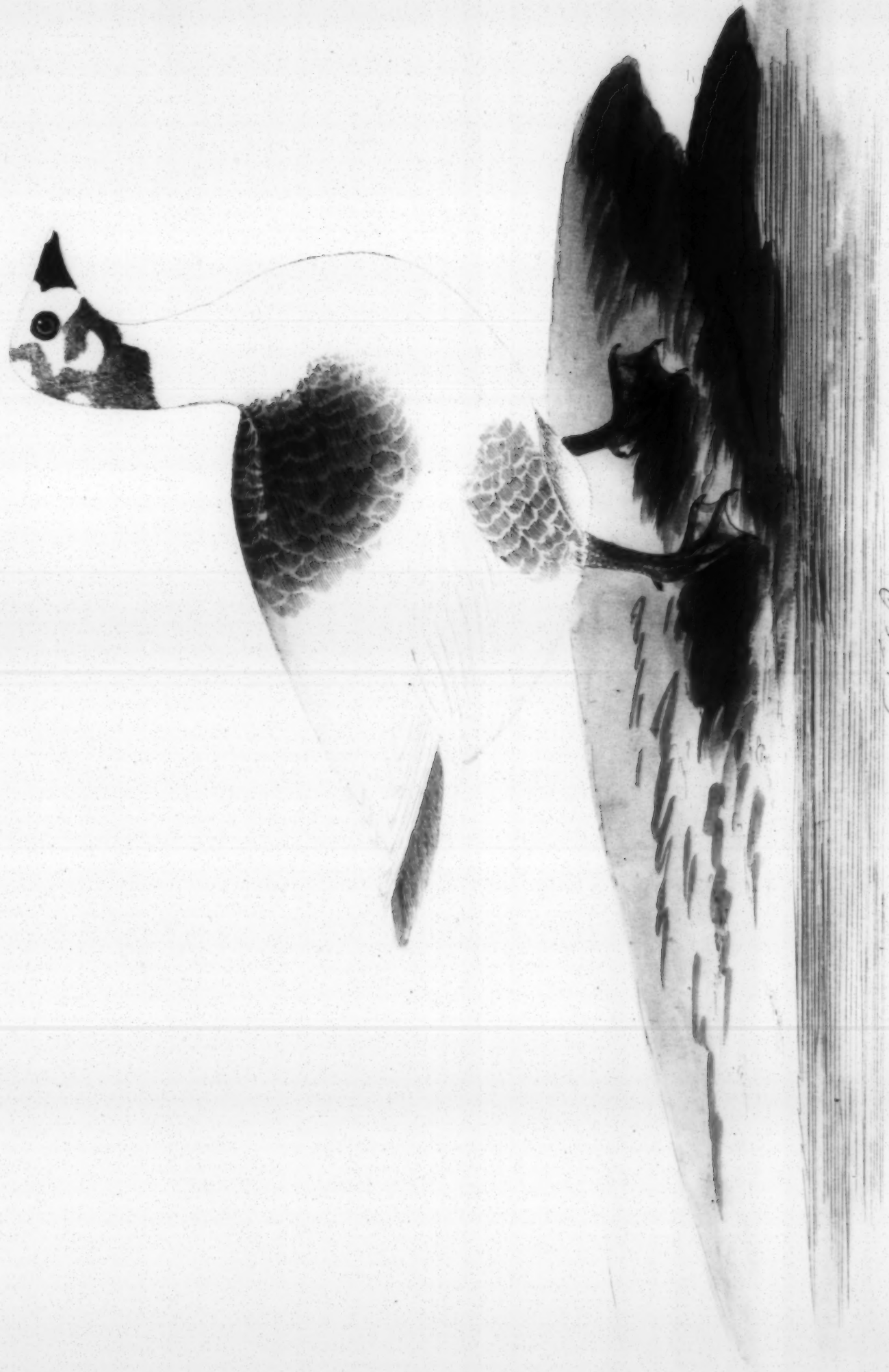
The Creepers.

Printed, Engraved & Published June 1794. by T. Lord, Maiden Lane, Cor^r Warⁿ

P L A T E LXXXI.

The Creeper.

THE birds delineated in this plate are the smallest species of Creepers, neither of them weighing more than two drams twelve grains, and differ much from any other class of this genus, having a larger tail, in proportion to the size of the bird. It is strongly feathered, and irriguous, which serves as a support in their creeping on trees. The bill is also long and hooked, but slender. They build their nest in gardens, but in a very private manner; it cannot therefore be found but by diligent search. They prefer building in a fir-tree, if there be any in the place where they frequent. They do not lay more than five eggs. The young are much like the old ones in colour, though not quite so dark, and have the power of creeping about the trees as soon as they quit the nest. They are birds of no song, but have a continual squeaking, like mice, by which they may be easily found. They are not fond of flying.



The Goose.

Painted, Engraved & Published Oct. 1794. by

T. Lord, N^o. Maiden Lane, Court Gar^g.

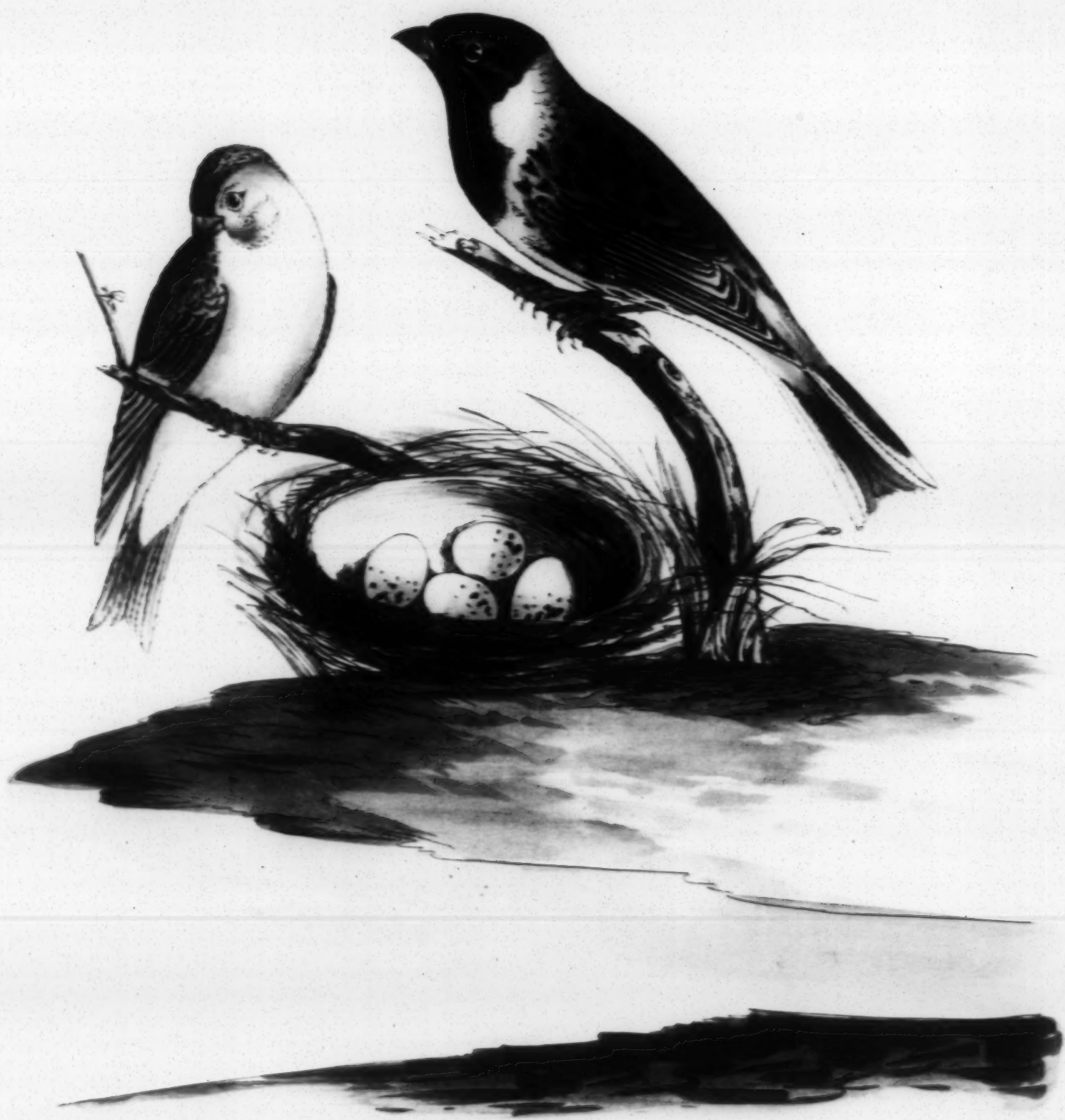
The Goose,

REPRESENTED in this plate, is the most common of this kind of fowl, of which there are several species ; and being everywhere known, it is less requisite to be diffuse in the description.

The male is generally all white, though sometimes a few grey feathers are found on the thigh. The females are always grey, intermixed with white, in large patches, marked very differently from each other. They do not always lay the same number of eggs. They sit early in the spring, and within the space of one month bring off their young ones, which will take to the young geese for subsistence. They seldom sit more than once in the season ; after which they flock with the young during the remainder of the year.

These birds are celebrated for their vigilance in the night. Geese were maintained in the Capitol of Old Rome, at the public expence, from a principle of gratitude. For when Rome was besieged by the Gauls, and the sentinels slept, the military were called to their duty by the clamour of some Geese, in the very moment of surprize ; and by their means the city was saved. If permitted to them, geese will, according to the laws of nature, live to a great age.

PLATE LXXXI



The Meadow Lark

Engraved & Coloured by T. J. Moore, from a drawing by J. H. Audubon

P L A T E LXXXIII.

The Reed Sparrow,

IN colour, very much resembles our common house sparrow, both male and female; but they are not in any other respect analogous to each other; for the residence of the Reed Sparrow is about rivers and brooks that are sheltered by a growth of rushes and flags; which situation they chuse for their nest. This is composed of any dried grafs and moss, loofely laid together, without much form, supported by rushes near the bankside. They do not lay more than five eggs. Their food is the seed of rushes, insects, or such other seeds as may be found by the water-side; for they are not met with in any other place. We seldom see more than one pair together. They have no song, but a twittering peculiar to themselves, by which they may be found, though secreted in the rushes.

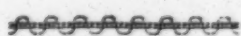


The Swallow

Painted, Engraved & Published Oct 5. 1874.

by T. Lord. No. Maiden Lane. Cost 60c.

The Swift,



IS a bird of passage, as is the Swallow and the Martin; but these last do not all of them invariably migrate. The Swift makes his appearance the last in these parts, and is one of the first that leaves us. From the length of his wings the Swift is admirably calculated for flight. Their legs are very short, infomuch, that if by accident they should fall to the ground, they are unable to recover themselves again. The place wherein they choose to deposit their eggs, is under the thatch of an old house, and nearly out of reach. Nest they make none; only scratch what rubbish together they may find in the thatch, which serves as a boundary to the eggs. These are five in number, of a most delicate white, and smooth, and have a very high polish, pellucid, and are more transparent than those of our small birds in general. Their legs are short, as we have already observed, and feathered down to the foot, but not the toes.

It is difficult to conceive an idea of the strength which they have in their claws; and, unless the hand be defended with a glove, it may suffer also from their bite. Their mouth is very large; nature has formed it to take their food as they fly, which consists of flies, the chief, if not the only food whereon they subsist. This is possibly the only bird which, in our climate, doth not take rest on the ground. The feathers, under the lower mandible, are of a stone colour, as are those immediately under the fork. The other parts are uniformly of a dusky black.

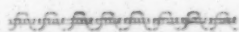
PLATE LXXXI



The Bittern.

Printed, Engraved & Published, Oct 21, 1844, by T. Agnew & Sons, Maiden Lane, Cor. 4th Street.

The Bittern.



T H E length from the tip of the bill to the end of the claws						Inches.
	-	-	-	-	-	40
from point to point of the wings extended	-	-	-	-	-	50
from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail	-	-	-	-	-	28
of the bill	-	-	-	-	-	4
of the neck	-	-	-	-	-	12
from the knee to the tip of the middle claw	-	-	-	-	-	9

Its head is small, narrow, and compressed at the sides. At the angles of the mouth, according to Willoughby, on each side is a black spot; but, in the bird here described, it differed. Tail feathers are ten in number. Its bill is straight, strong, thick at the head, and sharp at the point, having very sharp sides or edges. The sides of the lower mandible fall within the upper, which hath a long furrow, wherein are the nostrils. The tongue is sharp, and reaches scarcely to the middle of the bill. The middle claw is serrated on the interior edge, seemingly for the purpose of holding fast slippery fish, as in herons, &c. According to Willoughby, it begins to bellow about the beginning of February, and ceases when breeding time is over. The common people are of opinion, that it thrusts its bill into a reed; by the help whereof, it makes that lowing or drumming noise. Others say, that it thrusts its bill into the water, or mud or earth; and, by that means, imitates the lowing of an ox. It hides itself commonly among reeds and rushes; and sometimes lies in hedges, with its head and neck erect. The gullet, just below the bill, may be vastly dilated.

The Bittern, above all other birds, is said to strike at mens' eyes. It builds upon the ground, commonly in a tuft of rushes; lays four or five eggs, of a round figure, and whitish colour, inclining to cinerous or green, not spotted at all. This, without doubt, is the bird our common people call the *Night Raven*.



The Great Frigatebird.

Revised, Engraved & Published by T. Agnew & Sons, London.

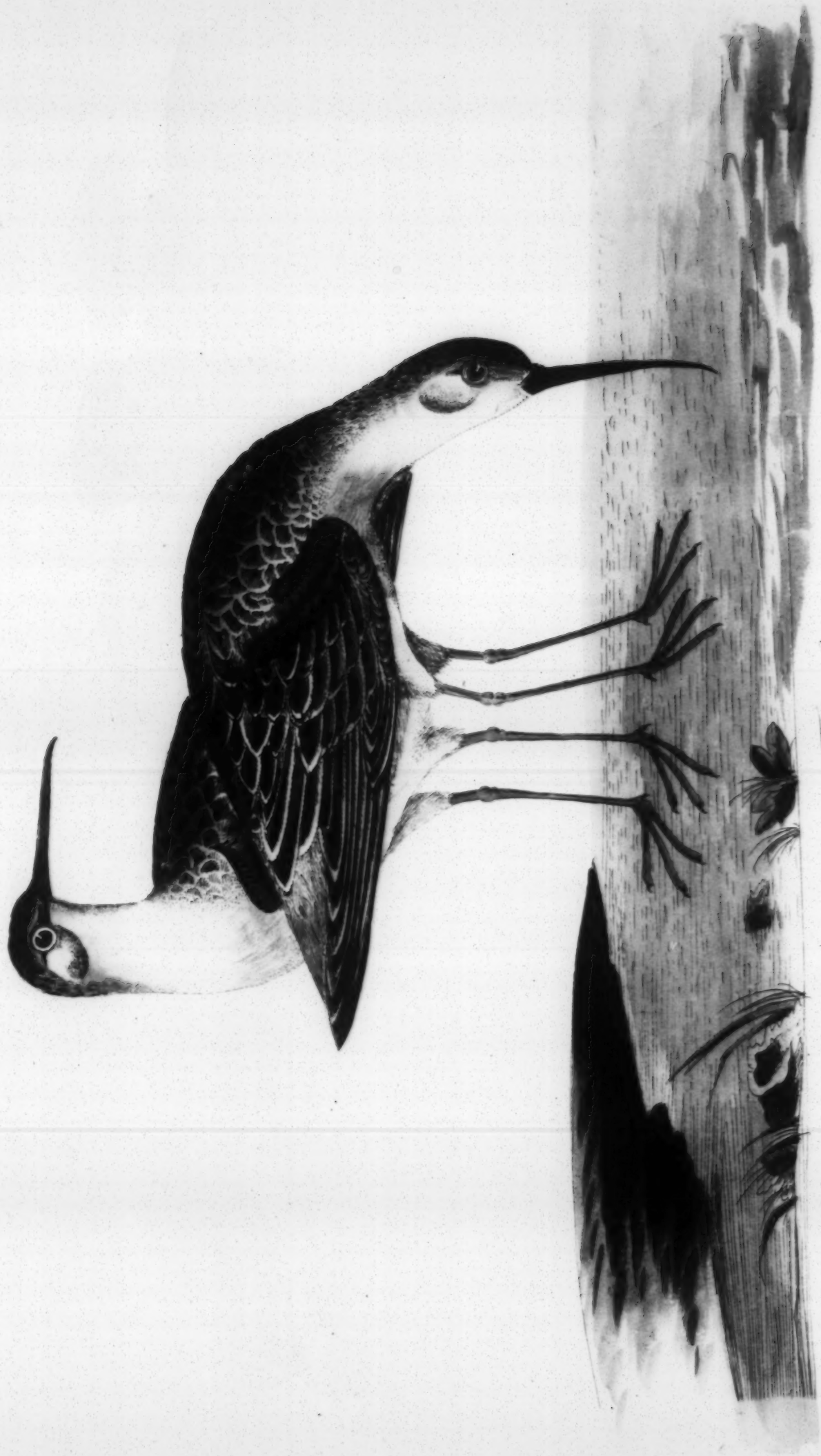
P L A T E LXXXVI.

The Goatsucker.

ITS bill, in proportion to its body, is the least of all birds, and a little crooked, and much resembling that of the Swift, described in a former number. Tail of ten feathers. The interior edge of the middle claw is ferrated, as in herons. In the stomach of one, described by Willoughby, were found some seeds and beetles. The eggs were long and white, but a little clouded, and spotted with black. It is found in the mountainous woods, especially in many places of England, as in Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Shropshire, &c.

The bird, of which this is an exact representation, was found in Buckinghamshire. Its nest, with young ones, was within the trunk of an old willow-tree.

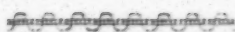
1821 3 15 7



The Birds.

Painted, Engraved & Published by T. Agnew & Sons, London. No. 1. Waterhouse Lane, Great Britain.

The Stints,



OR Summer Snipes, visit us in the Spring ; and, like the Common Snipes, frequent small brooks or ponds, in pursuit of food. They are often seen in pairs ; and have so little apprehension of danger, that you may approach within seven or eight yards of them, and they will not seem the least alarmed, but appear as if they did not see you. In the latter end of the breeding season, I have seen ten or more together in flight, in which they are very swift, remarkable strait, and not very high :—if ever so near, they are not to be heard. They are a bird of little or no estimation, being very insipid eating ; and, when stripped of their plumage, are very small.



The Ring tailed Hawk.

Painted, Engraved, & Published Jan^y 1875. by T. Lord. N^o 168. Strand.

P L A T E LXXXVIII.

The Ring Tailed Hawk,

OR White Rump. The bird this was taken from measured eighteen inches from the point of the bill to the tip of the tail; twelve inches across the breast, and thirteen from the pinion to the end of the longest feather in the wing. Although it appears a large bird, it is but small when stripped of its plumage, being a loose feathered bird. The coverts of the tail (though not described in the plate) are a pure white, each feather having a mark of red in the centre. In the month of August, 1794, I saw a brood of young ones, which had left their nest not more than three or four days, and were providing for themselves; for the old ones leave them when they quit their nest. They are easy of approach while young. There were four in number, two of which were like the bird here delineated, and the other two were grey, with black tails and wings. Hence it is obvious to me, that this bird and the Black Winged Hawk, are male and female; though this has not been so much remarked as the former ones. Their food, whilst young, are frogs, mice, and any sort of vermin; but when they get older they grow more savage, and feed on young birds, &c. &c.



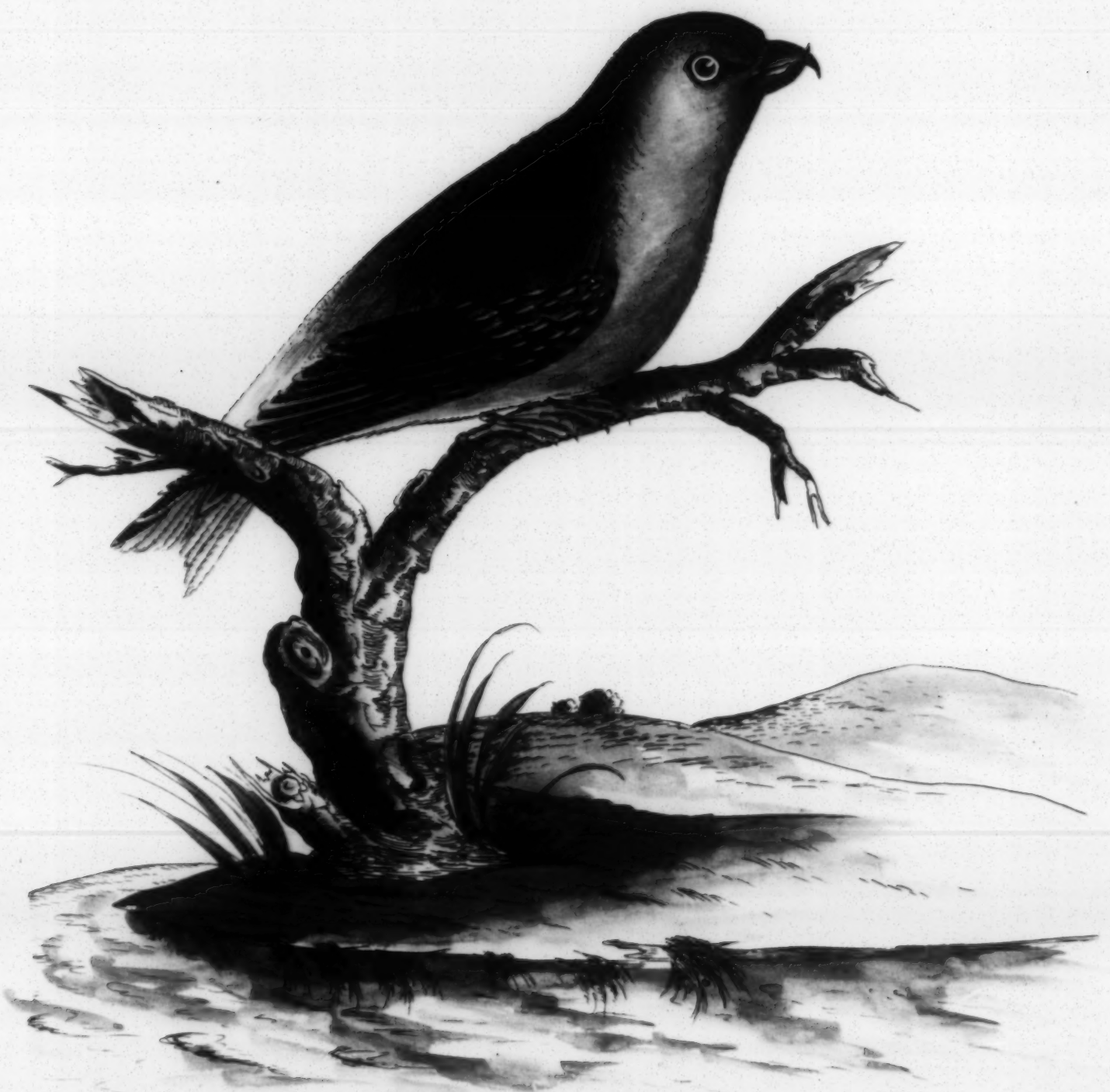
The Albatross.
Painted, Engraved & Published, Jan. 24, 1891, by T. Lard, No. 408, Strand.

PLATE LXXXIX.

The Jack Snipes,

BY some called The Judcock. These birds are not above half the size of the other Snipes. In weight they do not exceed two ounces. The haunts and food of this species are the same as the other Snipes. They are difficult to be found, not being so numerous as the others, and are beautifully striped on the back with yellow feathers (as described in the plate); which feathers are long and slender, like the neck feathers of a game cock; the feathers on their backs are very long, extending from the top of the shoulders nearly to the end of the tail. The coverts of the wings are also long, being equal with the end of the wing feathers when not expanded. The end of the bill is black, which is not properly distinguished in the plate, being so small. Their hind claws are remarkable small, and appear to be withered and of little service to them. These Snipes in general have been found so frequent in England, that there remains a doubt whether they entirely leave this island or not. However, certain it is, that some of them continue with us all the summer, building their nests as well on high mountains as on our moors and marshes. "Their flesh is esteemed sweet and delicate."

THE END



The Crows' Bill.

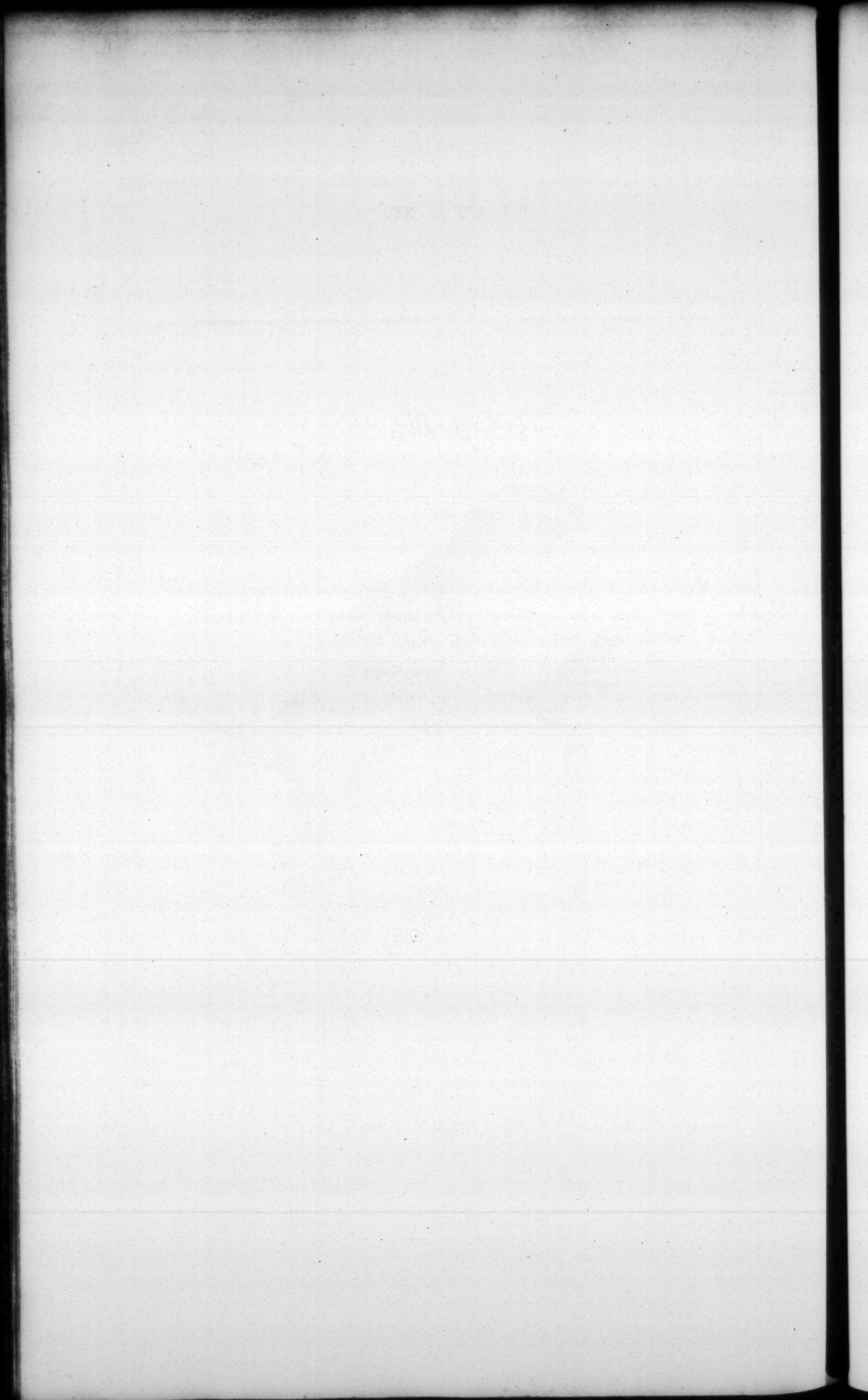
Painted, Engraved & Published Jan^r 4. 1805 by T. Ford, N^o 460. Strand

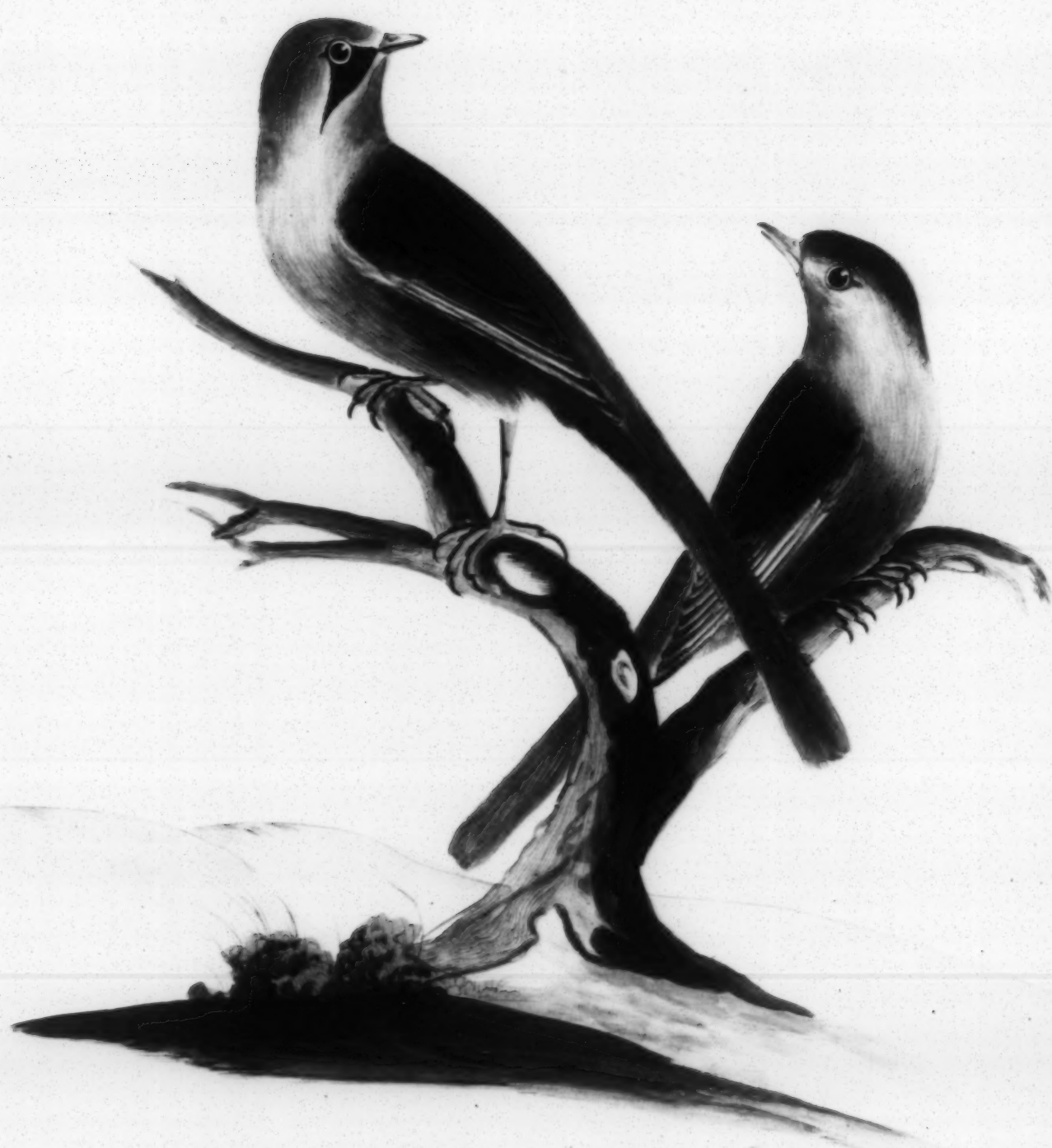
P L A T E X C.

The Cross Bill,



IS not only an inhabitant of this country, but of Austria also, where they breed; but I never heard of their breeding with us. They are certainly the most scarce bird we have, very few of them being taken; they are sometimes caged on account of their scarcity, I should suppose, as they have not any great properties appertaining to them, neither are they songsters. They have a short tongue, which reaches only to the crossing of their bill, from whence the upper mandible is perfectly solid, and flat within to the point. They change their colour from a dirty olive to those which the bird of this plate represent. They feed upon hard seeds like our Finches. This bird was shot in the month of November, in Buckinghamshire.



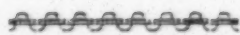


The Bearded Titmouse.

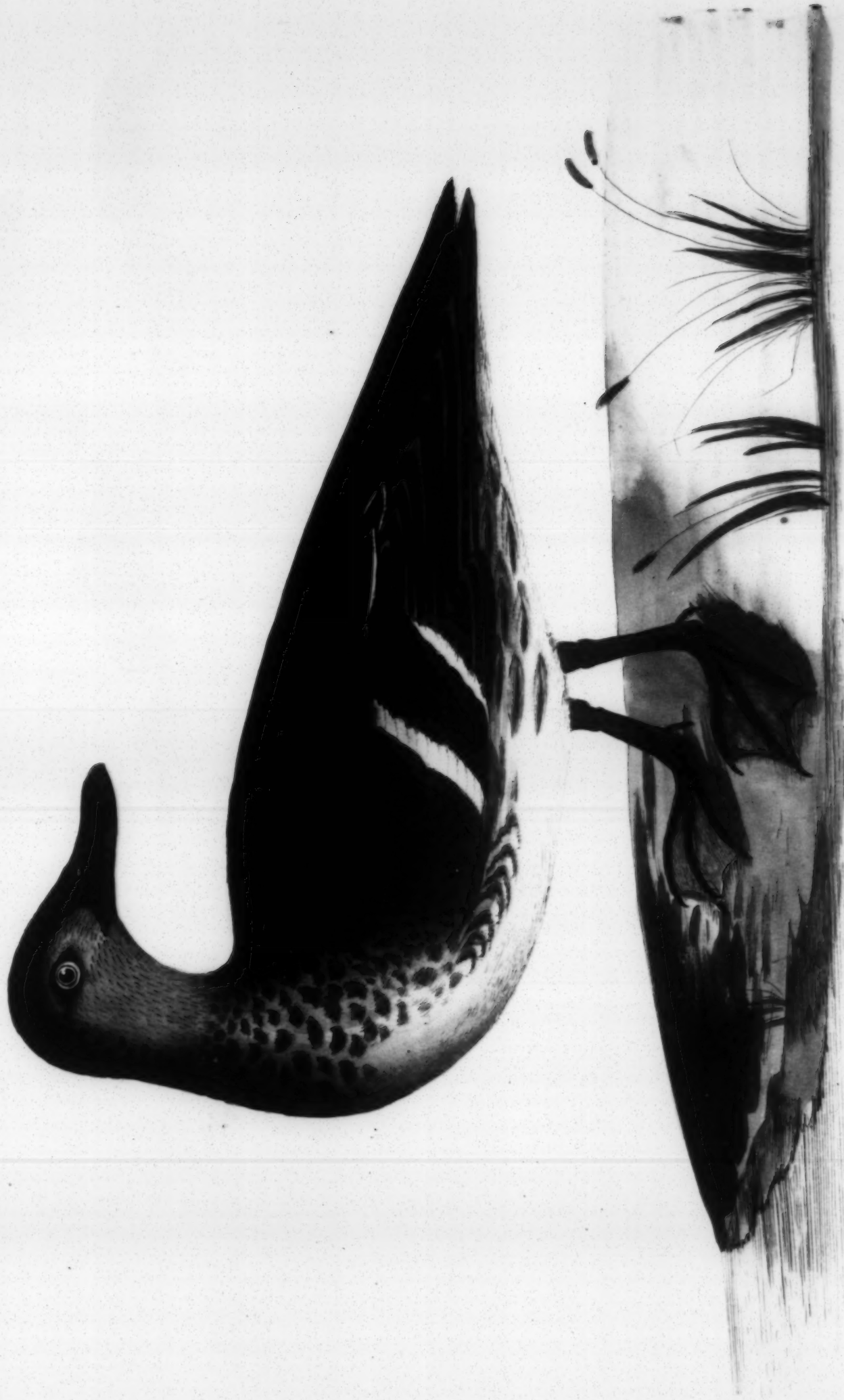
Painted, Engraved & Published April 1795. by T. Lord. N^o 260. Strand.

P L A T E XCI.

The Bearded Titmouse,



THOUGH a native of this kingdom, is but little known, being a scarce bird, and seldom to be met with; those few we have mostly inhabit the fens in Lincolnshire. They build in hedges; in shape and colour they much resemble our Hoy bird, given in a former plate. They continue in pairs, as many of our small birds do, but associate with no other. The male bird exhibits great fondness for the female, by spreading his wings over her during the time she is at roost. Buffon says little more of them than describing their plumage and form; and as these portraits are taken from the birds exactly, it would be entirely unnecessary to say any thing respecting their exteriors.

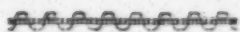


The Teal.

Painted, Engraved & Published April 1. 1795. by T. Lard. N^o. 468. Strand.

P L A T E X C I I .

The Teal,



IS the smallest of the Duck kind. This plate represents the female, which in other authors is described very different in colour; but as I pay a strict adherence to nature, the public may rely on every bird being accurately copied. This is given the exact size. It is a bird that breeds in fens, as other wild fowl. The legs of this specie are remarkably flat. The London markets are supplied with them in the winter; they differ much in price, according to the quantities brought: sometimes they sell for eight-pence each, and I have known them fetch three shillings a couple. We seldom have them in town after February, as the flocks then disperse, and they repair for breeding.



The Starling.

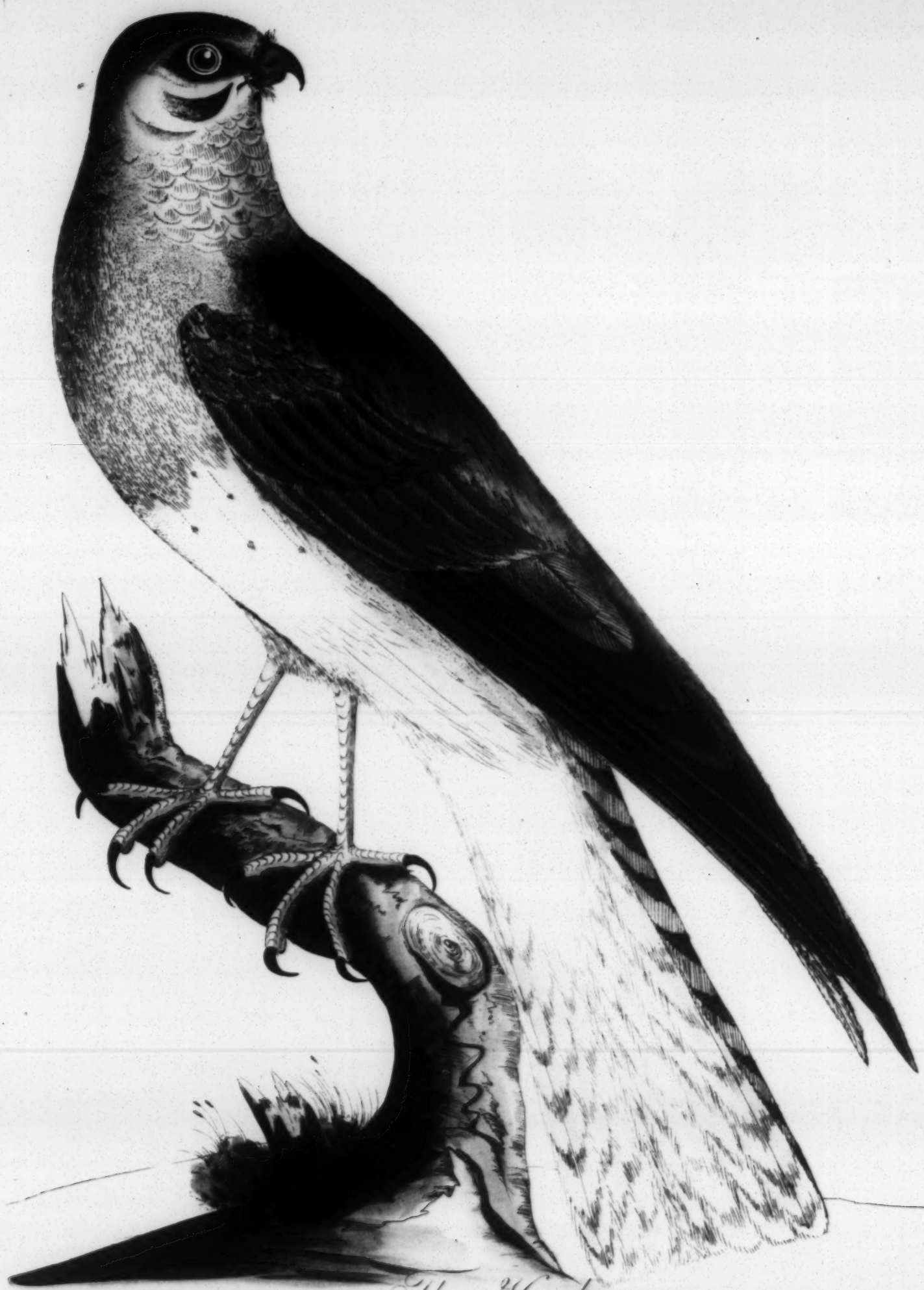
Printed, Engraved & Published April 1. 1793. by T. Long, N^o 488. Strand.

P L A T E X C I I I .

The Starling.

IN this plate is given the female. It is a bird well known in all parts of our kingdom; they continue with us all the year, and we have them in great abundance. In the Summer they frequent antiquated buildings and churches, which places they make choice of for their nest; they are also to be found in parks, &c. but not in any lonely or unfrequented places, as they are averse to retirement. They lay from five to six eggs, and generally bring as many young ones, being a very hardy bird. They are early in breeding, and will have three or four nests in a season. As soon as breeding season is over they flock together in great numbers, so as to darken the earth like a cloud. In the Winter they retire to some large dove-houses for roosting places. I have known twelve hundred dozen taken in one night, which has been effected by first closing the top. If they were not taken they would soon destroy both the eggs and pigeons, being great enemies to them. They are brought to the London markets, where they seldom sell for more than a shilling or eighteen-pence per dozen, as they are not esteemed delicious food.

THE END OF THE WORLD



The Hawk.

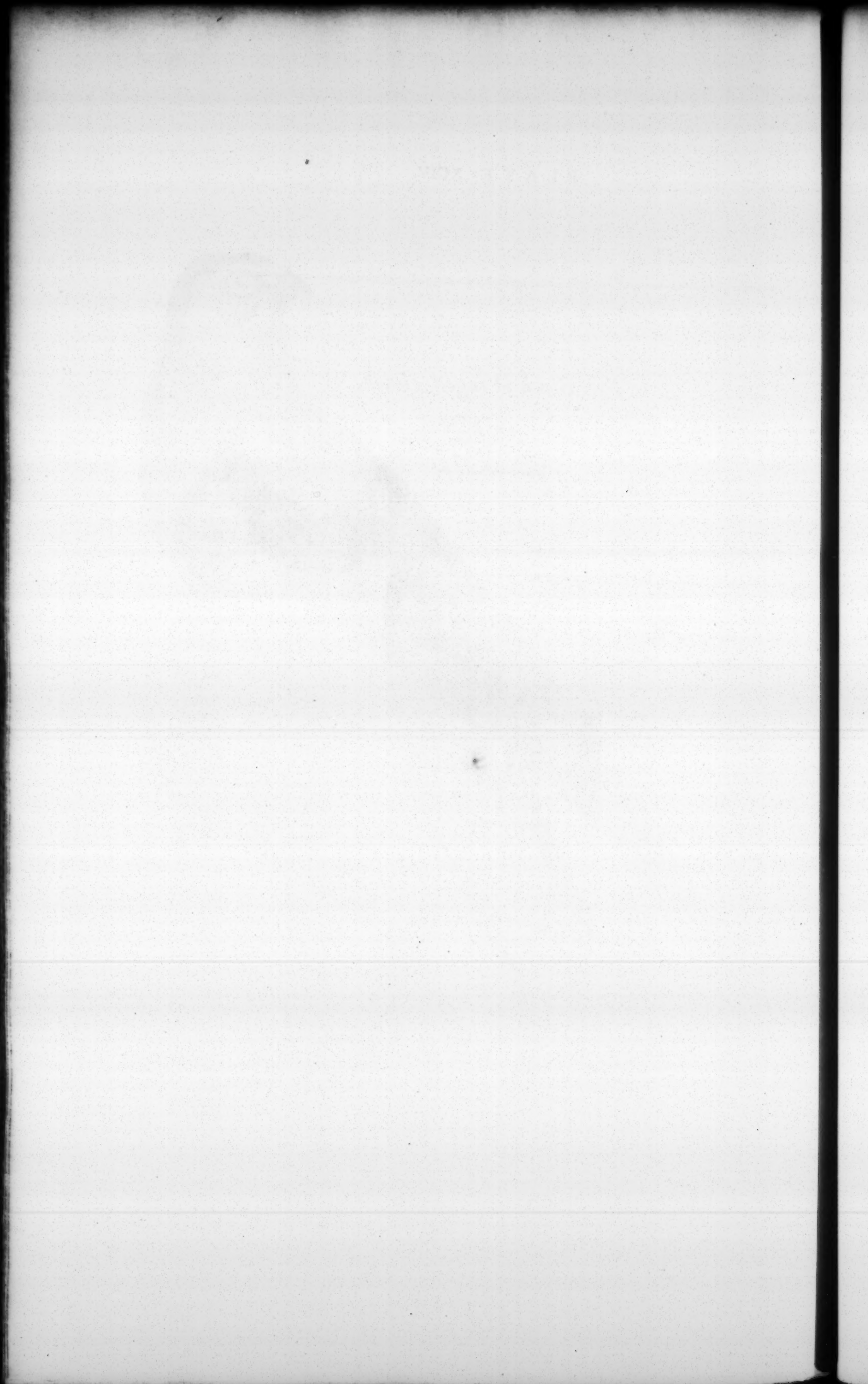
Painted, Engraved & Published May 1795. by T. Ford. N° 408. Strand.

P L A T E X C I V .

The Black Winged Hawk,



REPRESENTED in this plate, is the bird alluded to in the description of the Ring-tailed Hawk in a former Number, to which the legs and wings of this bear a great resemblance. This bird is reduced, for the conveniency of the work, as the bird this was taken from measured, from the point of the bill to the tip of the tail, seventeen inches, and round the breast thirteen; from the pinion of the wing to the end of the longest feather, fourteen inches. This one of the most difficult birds to approach that we have, though not very swift in its flight. Is one of the most destructive of the hawk kind, particularly among young partridges; from the beginning of the breeding season they are in continual search after them before they have taken wing. I have observed them go regularly up one furrow and down the next, within a yard of the ground, until they have gone over the whole field, and then proceed to the next. They are seldom to be seen but at this season of the year; for in the winter they retire to large woods and take up with more ordinary food, such as mice, frogs, &c.



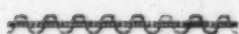


The Male Teal.

Painted, Engraved & Published May 1855. by T. Ford. No. 488. Strand.

P L A T E XCV.

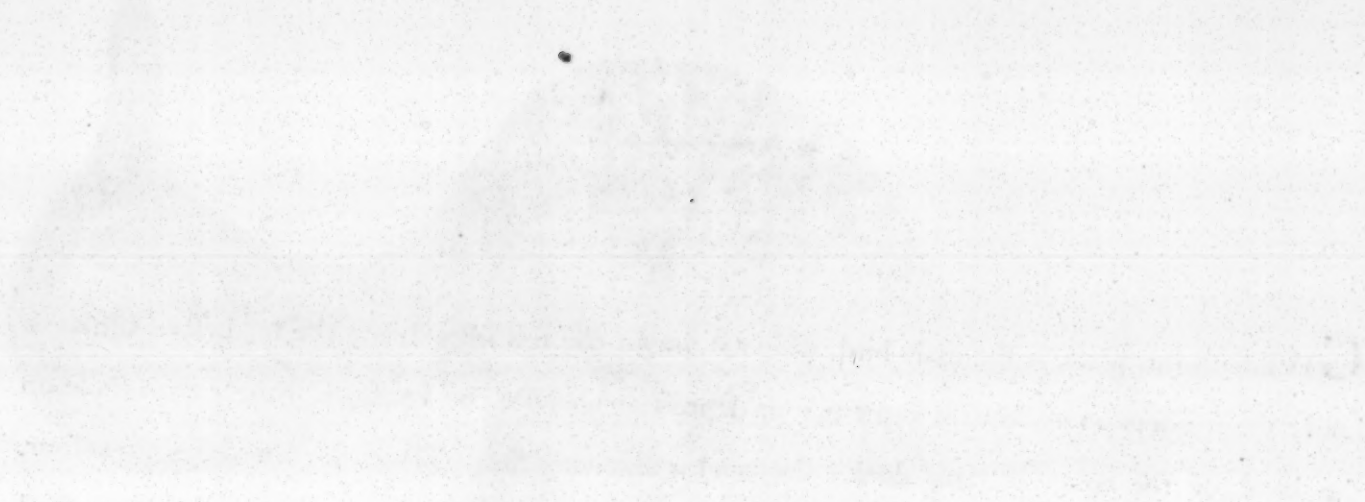
The Teal,



GIVEN in this plate, is the male bird, which is drawn the full size; being the smallest of the duck kind; the feathers on its head it can erect or depress at pleasure, being much longer than those on the head of the common tame duck; the head is also very flat. These do not differ in colour, like the common duck, though the female has sometimes a tuft of down on the head. They feed like the wild fowl, on seeds, worms, and any such food as the fens afford; they are there in great numbers. The London markets have a constant supply of them all the season.

PLATE NO.

THE

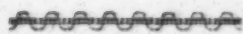




The Spotted Woodpeckers.

Painted, Engraved & Published May 1795. by T. Lord. N^o 408. Strand.

The Small Spotted Woodpeckers,



HERE given, are the smallest of their kind, and has, like the larger ones, a strong bristly tail, which is their support against the trees; for they generally settle against the sides, like all of this description; their food is small insects of all sorts: these are more tame than any of this species; their nest is generally to be met with in the hole of an apple-tree. The very few we have of these birds are chiefly to be found in gardens. They have no particular quality to render them valuable; nor are they a bird of song.

STATE

THE STATE OF NEW YORK

IN SENATE

JANUARY 1, 1891

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE

IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION



The Quails.

Painted, Engraved & Published July 1, 1793, by T. Ford, N^o. 408, Strand.

The Quail,



IN its habits and nature, resembles all others of the poultry kind, except that it is a bird of passage.

When we consider the heavy manner of its flying, and its dearth of plumage, in proportion to its corpulence, it appears surprising that a bird, so apparently ill qualified for migration, should venture to take extensive journies: but, however extraordinary, it is certainly a bird of passage.

Bellonius assures us, that when he went from Rhodes to Alexandria, about autumn, several Quails, flying from the north to the south, were taken in his ship; and sailing at spring time the contrary way, from south to north, he observed them on their return, when many of them were taken in the same manner.

This account is confirmed by the testimony of many others, who assert, that they choose a north wind for these adventures; the south being very unfavourable, as it retards their flight by moistening their plumage. But though it is universally admitted that the Quail is a bird of passage, it still remains a doubt whether they take such long journies as Bellonius has made them perform. Some have lately asserted that it only migrates from one province of a country to another.

In England, for instance, it flies from the inland counties to those bordering on the sea, and remains there all the winter. If they are driven out of the stubble-fields or marshes, by frost or snow, they retreat to the sea-side, take shelter among the weeds, and live on what the sea casts upon the shore. The time of their appearance upon the coasts of Essex exactly coincides with their disappearance from the more internal parts of the kingdom.

Mr. Pennant says, "They are birds of passage; some entirely quitting our island, and others shifting their quarters." It is therefore probable, that the account which Bellonius has given us, may be strictly true; and the assertions which others have made, that they sometimes only migrate from one province of a country to another, may equally deserve to be credited.

The Quail is not so prolific as the Partridge, seldom laying more than six or seven eggs, which are whitish, marked with irregular rush-coloured spots. This bird is easily taken, and may be enticed any where by a call.

Quail-fighting, among the Athenians, was a favourite amusement. They abstained from the flesh of this bird, deeming it unwholesome, as it was supposed to feed on hellebore; but they staked sums of money on them, as we do with regard to game-cocks, upon the success of the combat. At present, however, the courage of this bird is disregarded, but its flesh is considered as a very great delicacy.

THE T.A.



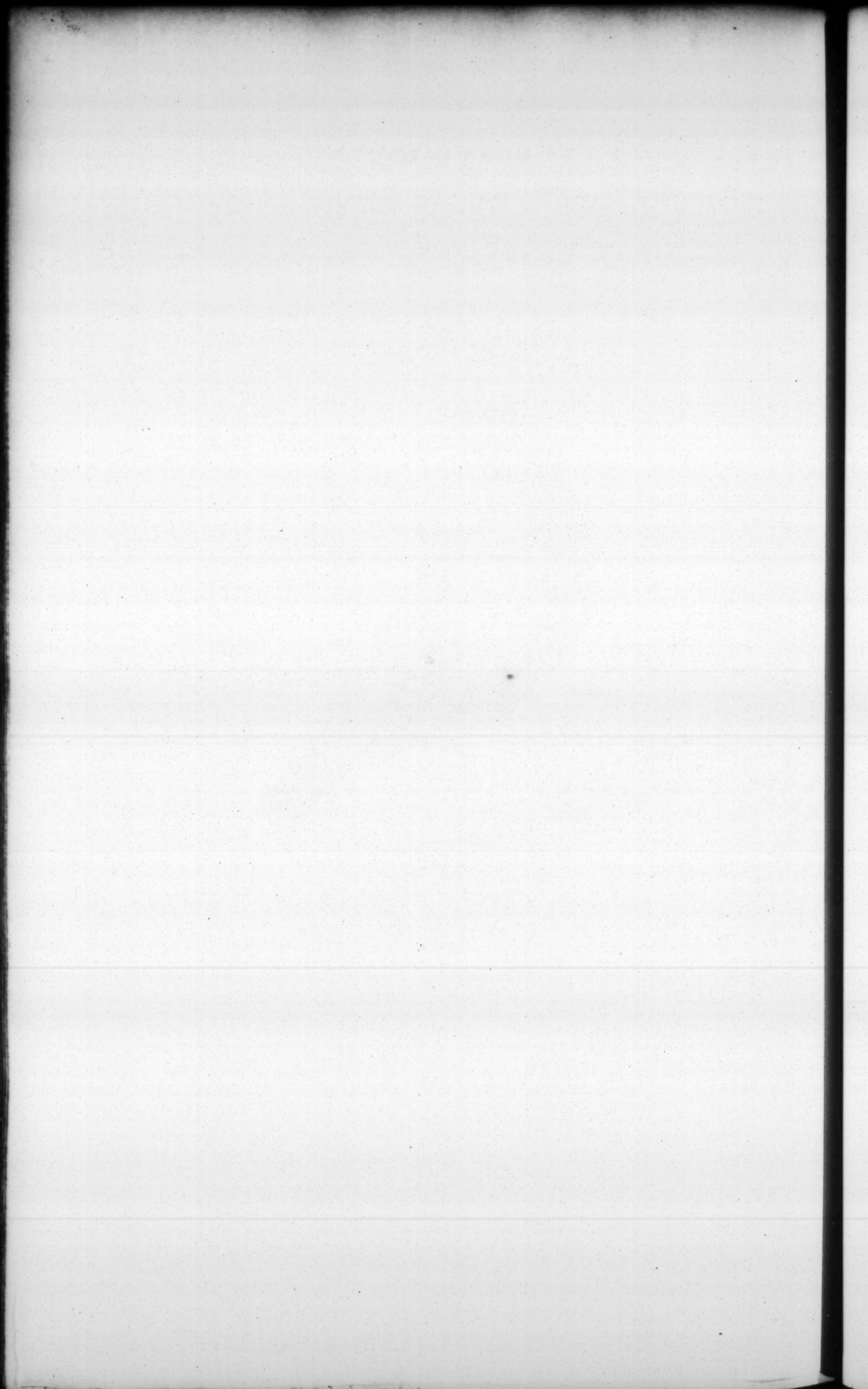
The Starling.

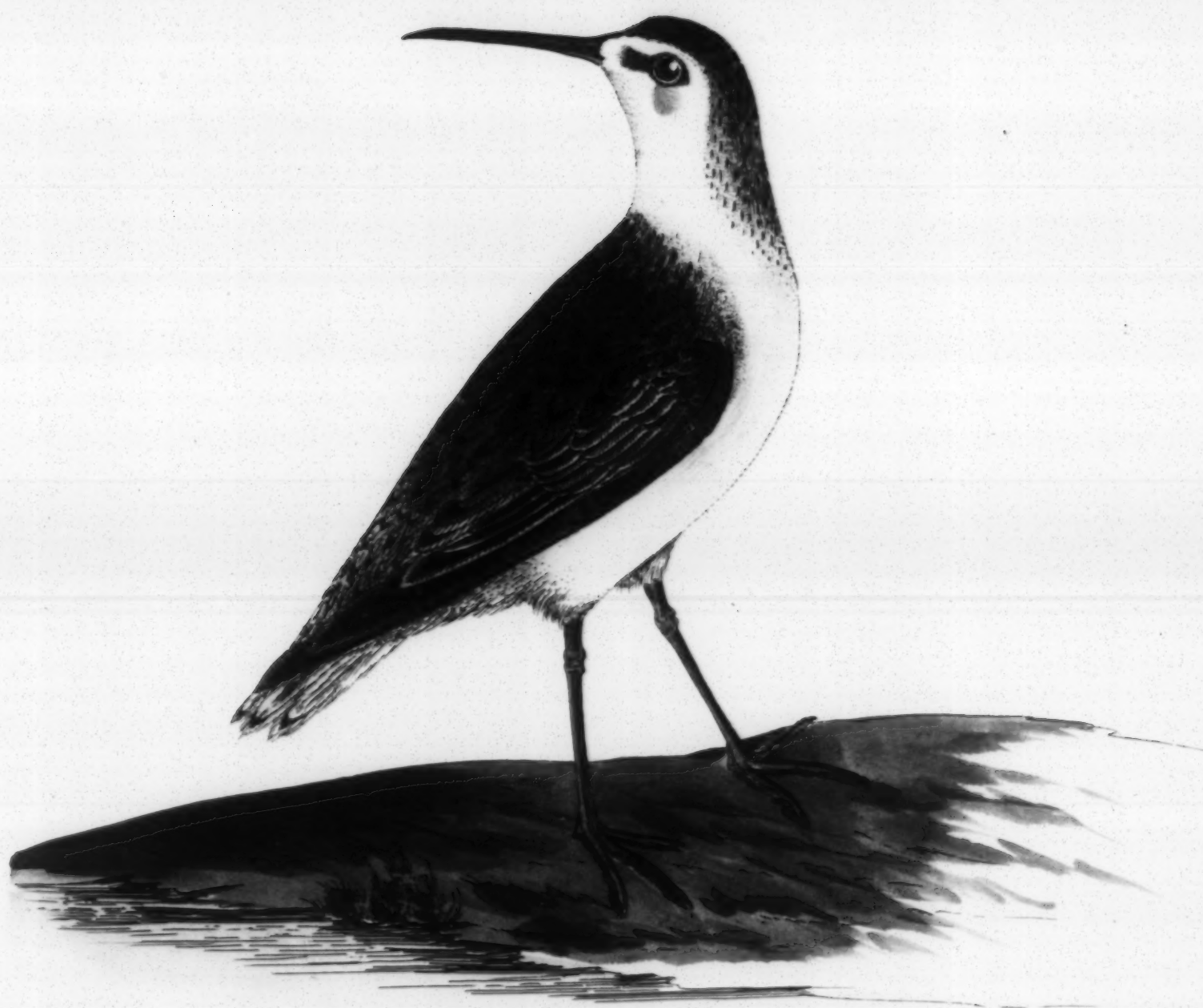
Painted, Engraved & Published July 1795. by T. Ford. N^o 468. Strand.

The Male Starling,

OF this plate, is a bird well known, and very numerous ; and, as I have observed in a former plate of the female, they are a destructive bird among pigeons. It is totally impracticable to do justice to the brilliancy of it, as it exhibits such a variety of changeable colours. The male bird is capable of receiving instructions, in either talking or singing, and will so imitate the human voice as to deceive the nicest ear. There is a method to be observed in teaching them, which must be adhered to:—whilst young, the bird intended to be taught must be kept almost in darkness, and never shifted from one place to another.

Like other young birds, they do not attain to a clearness of voice until the spring following. The Starling is of a strong and hardy nature, and does not require any particular tenderness in the treatment of it. The food they are generally fed upon is fig-dust, mixed with water. Barley-flower may answer equally the same with some small pieces of raw meat put in it.





The Dunlin.

Painted, Engraved & Published by T. Lord, No. 268. Strand.

P L A T E X C I X .

The Dunlis,



OR DUNLIN, is a bird of passage, migrates from the north of Europe: it has some affinity with the snipes, and it may be conjectured its properties are much the same. Buffon having classed it with them, confines his description of it to the colour and size of the bird only.



The Shell Duck.

Painted, Engraved & Published, Sept. 5, 1795.

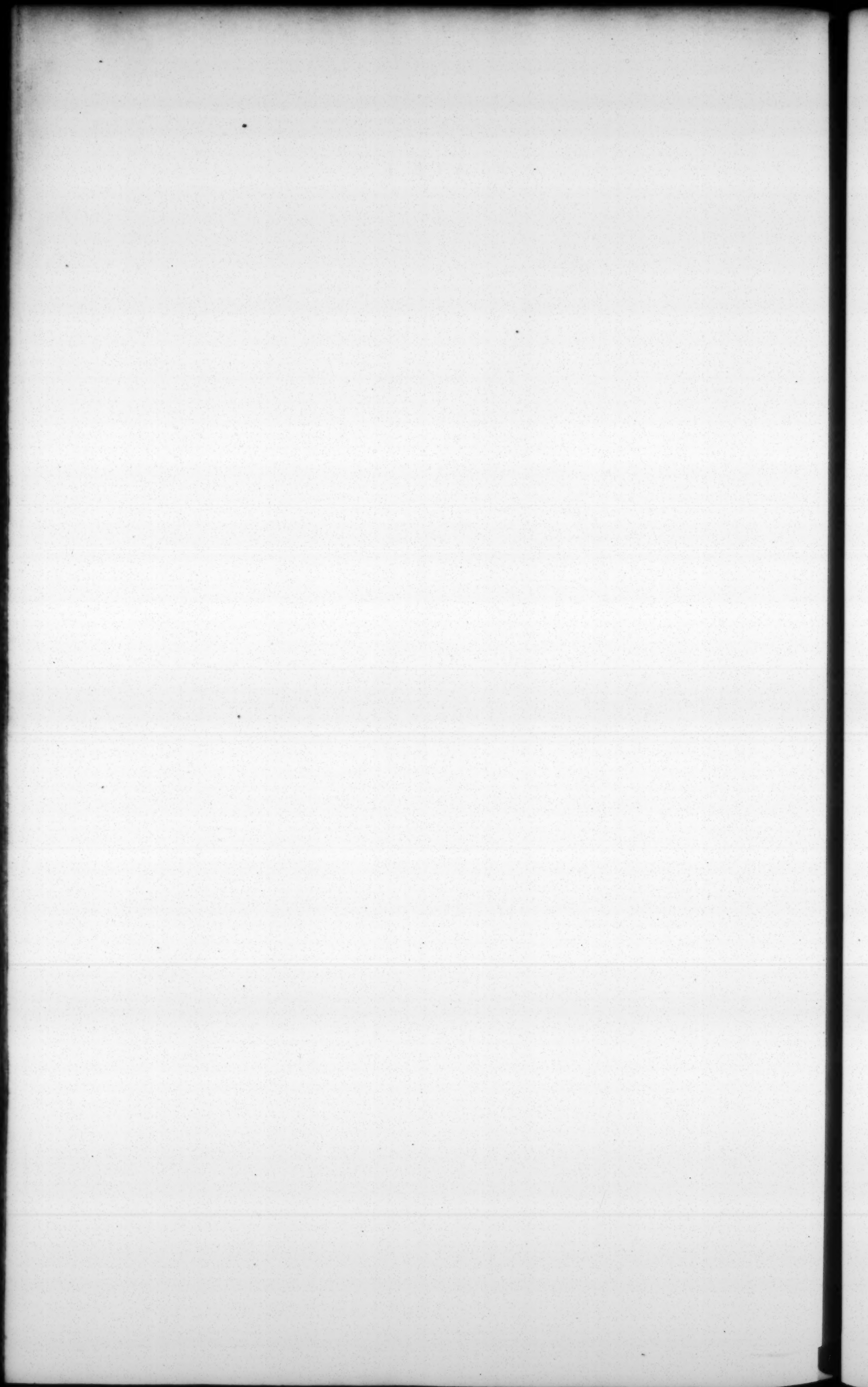
by T. Lord, N^o. 468, Strand.

PLATE L.

The Sheldrake,

IS reduced for the convenience of the plate. The bird from which this was taken measured sixteen inches from the point of the bill to the tip of the tail; fourteen inches round the breast; and from the pinion to the tip of the longest feather, thirteen inches.

Buffon says, it is an inhabitant of the northern world, as far as Iceland. They usually breed in deserted rabbit holes, lay fifteen or sixteen roundish white eggs, and sit about thirty days. Latham says, "they are very careful of their young, and will carry them from place to place in their bills." They shew much instinctive cunning in preserving them when they are attempted to be caught; they will fly along the ground as if wounded, till the brood are got into a place of security. Their great beauty has induced many unsuccessful attempts to domesticate them; but they never thrive, unless in the neighbourhood of salt water. The eggs are thought good, but the flesh of the bird is rank and unfavoury.



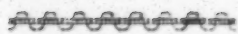


The Red Shank.

Printed, Engraved & Publish'd Sept. 7. 1795. by T. Lord. N^o. 468. Strand.

P L A T E L I.

The Redshank.



AS the real size of this bird is not curtailed in the plate, there remains but little to be said; it is, however, observable of this species, that when their nest is in danger, they make a noise similar to that of a Lapwing; and when the tide flows, they are evidently much agitated, flying from one place of the shore to another, in flocks, and frequently settling, but never resting long together.

1777



The Sand Martins.

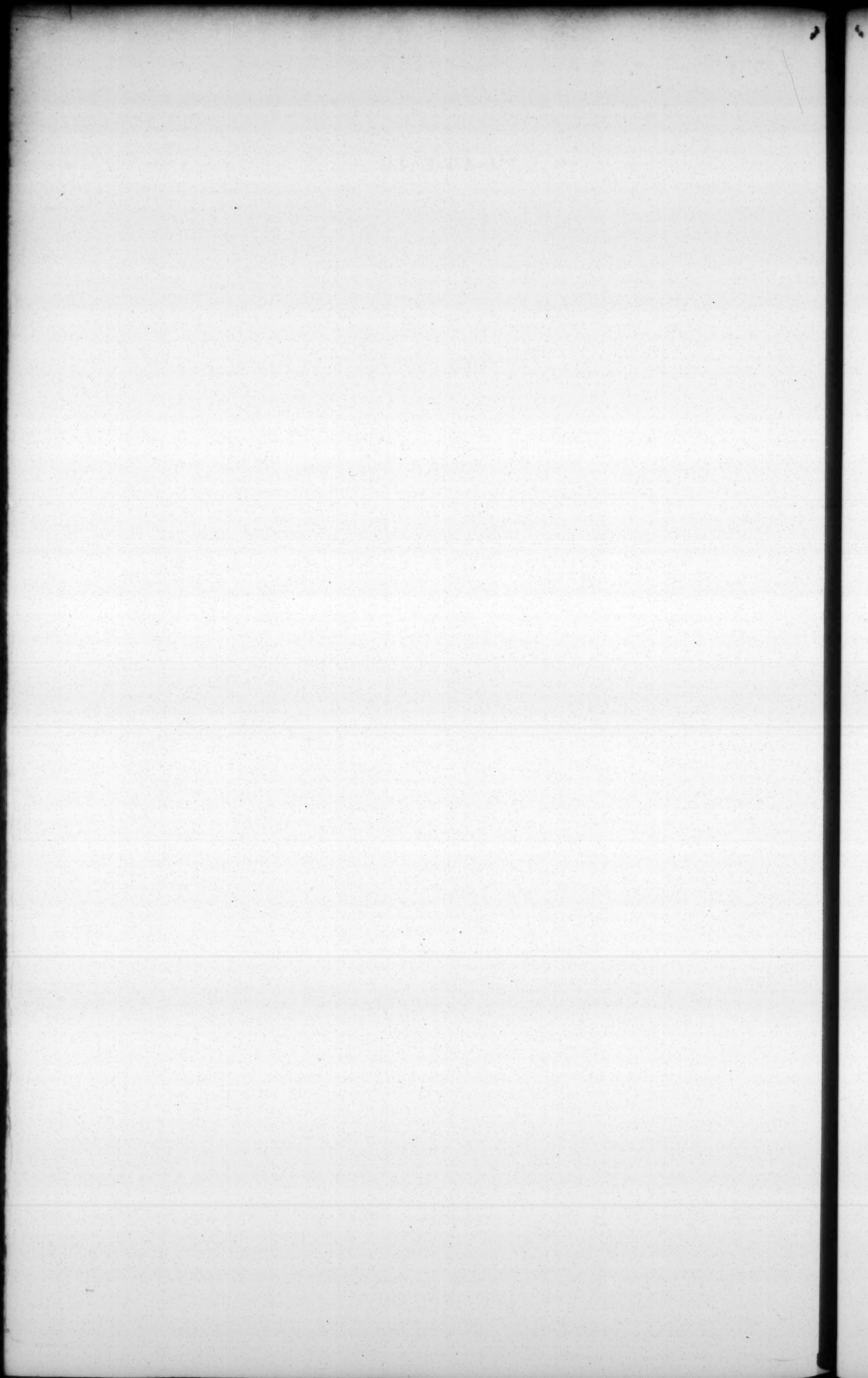
Painted, Engraved & Published Sept: 1795. by T. Lord. N^o 468. Strand.

P L A T E LII.

The Sand Martins,



ARE Birds of passage, and migrate at the same time as the common House Martin and Swallow, but are not so well known, we having but few of them ; neither are they so generally dispersed about as other birds, but confine themselves to the sandy countries, and in Bedfordshire particularly they are to be found during the breeding season. They build in the holes of sand banks, but their nest differs in its structure from the House Martin, being composed of straws and feathers, loosely put together ; they lay five or six eggs, which are white, with a few very faint red spots on them ; the shells are very thin and tender ; they seldom settle but when they come to their nest, as they procure food for themselves and young ones in their flight ; in which respect they resemble the House Martin and Swallow. They are not quite so large as either, and differ much in colour. They associate with no bird whatever, but keep entirely to themselves, and quit us on a sudden about the end of September or the beginning of October.





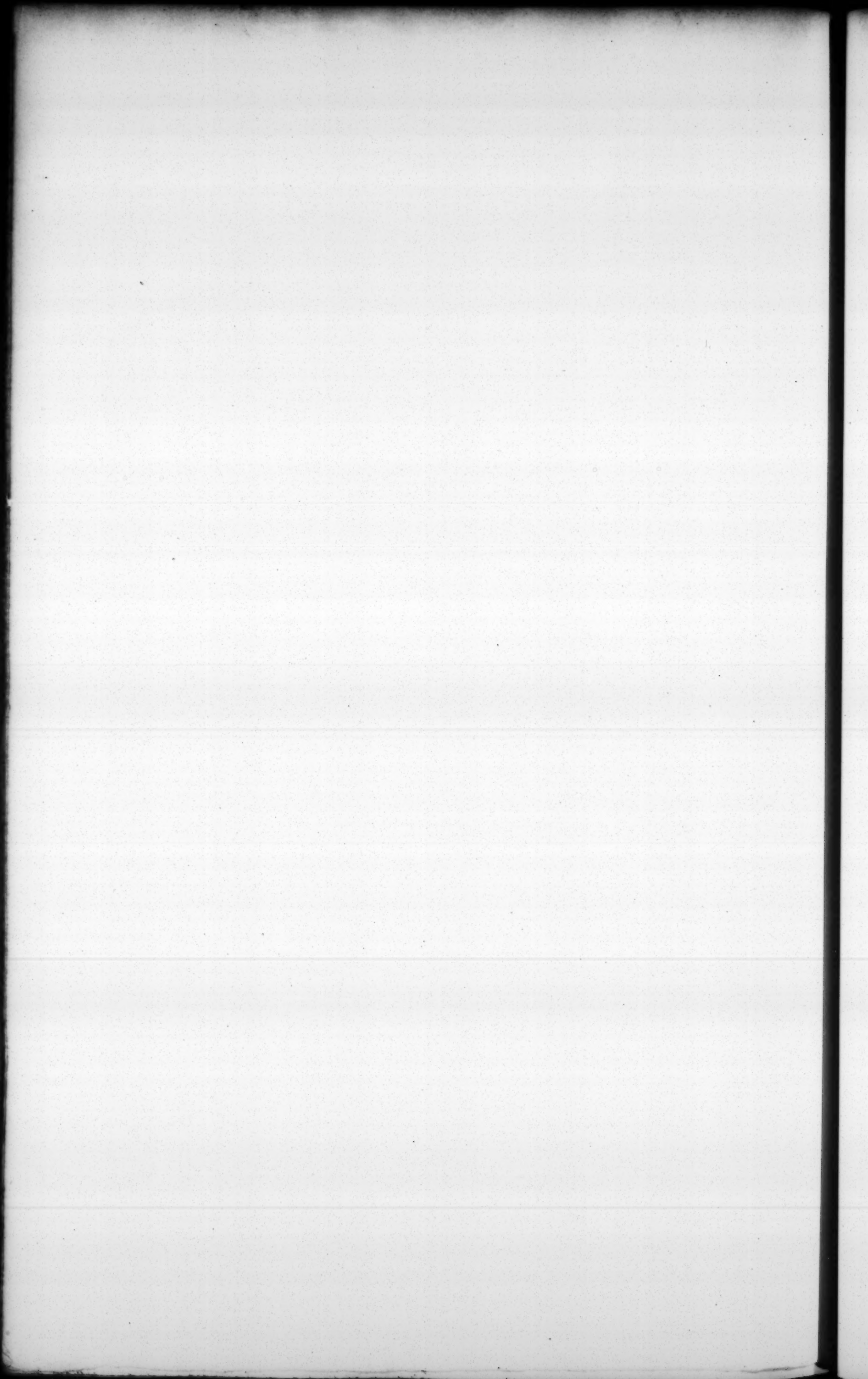
The Hen Pheasant.

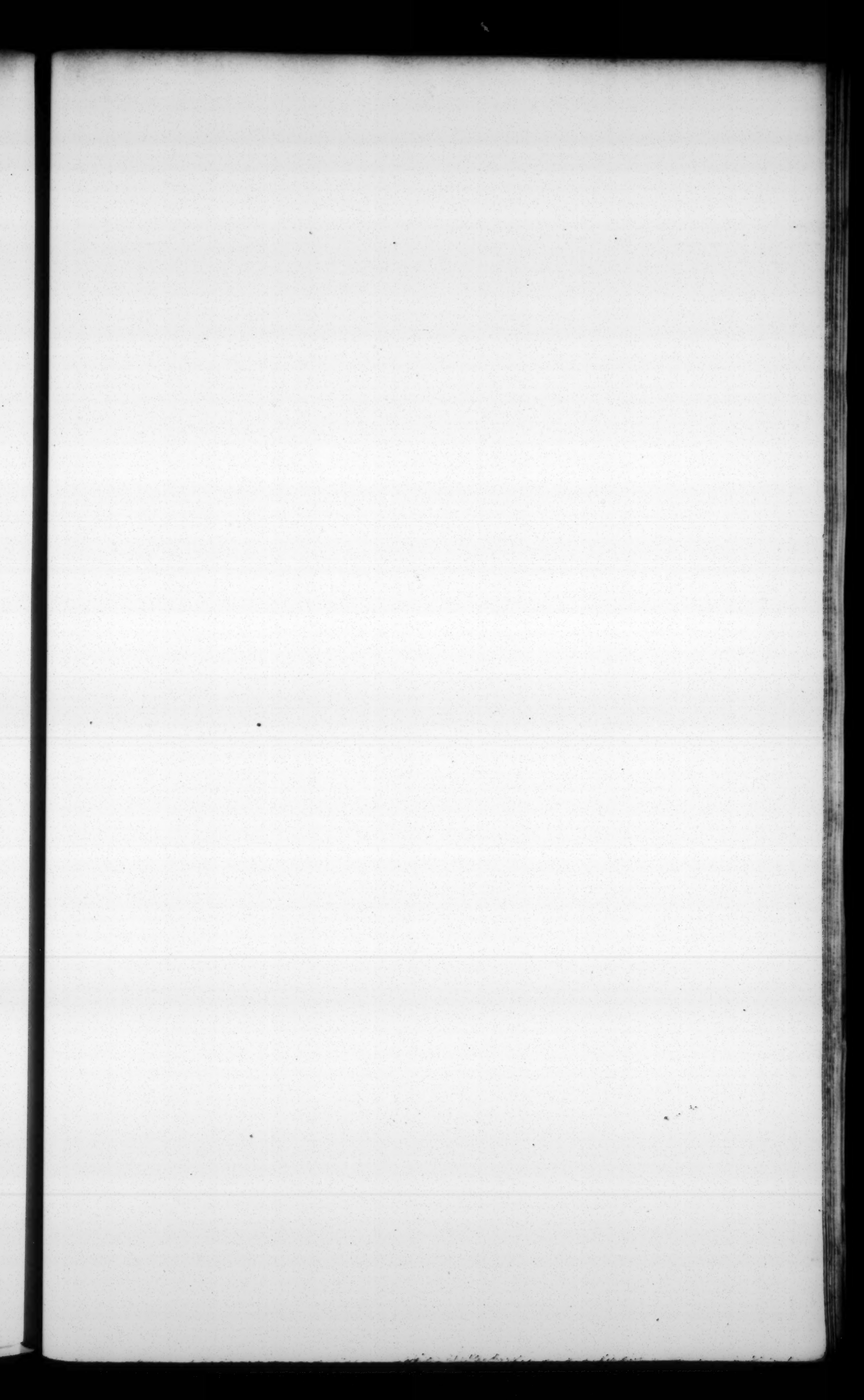
Printed, Engraved & Published Nov. 5. 1885. by T. Long, 17, 468, Strand.

P L A T E CIII.

The Hen Pheasant,

GIVEN in this plate, is reduced in size. The bird it was taken from measuring, from the point of the bill to the tip of the tail, twenty-four inches, and fifteen across the breast. Its food is all kinds of growing corn. In the winter, like many other birds, it partakes of more ordinary food, such as acorns, black-berries, &c. and what else the woods afford; for being a bird not fond of flying, it seldom goes far from the wood it inhabits. It most generally makes choice of strong thickets for its retreat. Seldom lays more than nine eggs, which commonly produce as many young ones. They leave their nest as soon as they are hatched, when the old one goes in quest of ants-eggs for them, which they are particularly fond of. With some trouble this bird may be made to breed in a room, but there must be a very private place for it to make its nest in; and, as soon as it has young ones, they must be well supplied with ants-eggs, till they are able to eat their accustomed food, corn, &c. which is the best for them. When confined, they may be made to breed with the game or bantam fowls; but they will not produce such brilliant colours as with their own species.





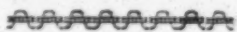


The Aberduvine?

London Painted, Engraved & Rubbed. No. 1. 1804. by T. Lord. N^o 468. Strand

PLATE CIV.

The Aberduvine, or Siskin.

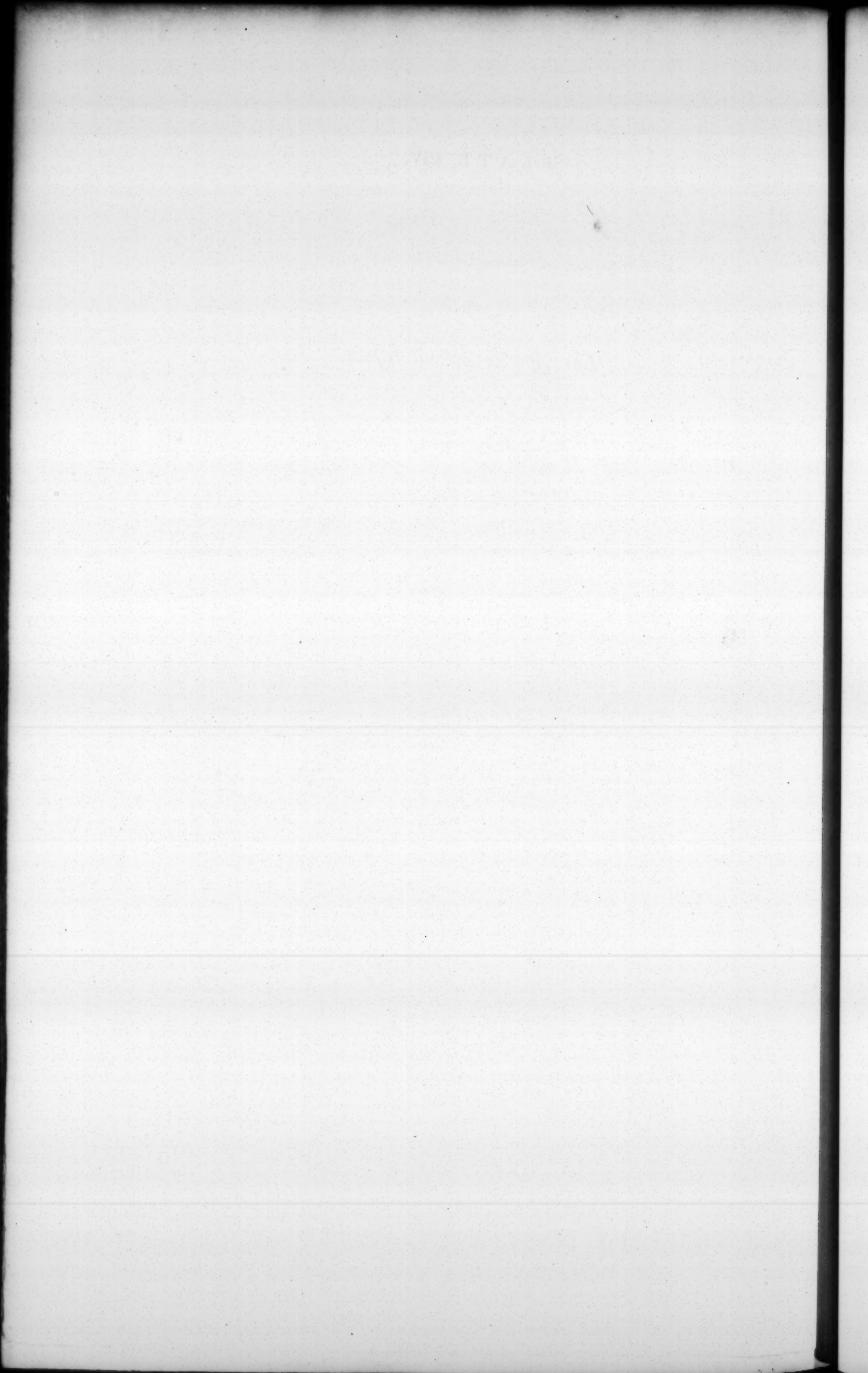


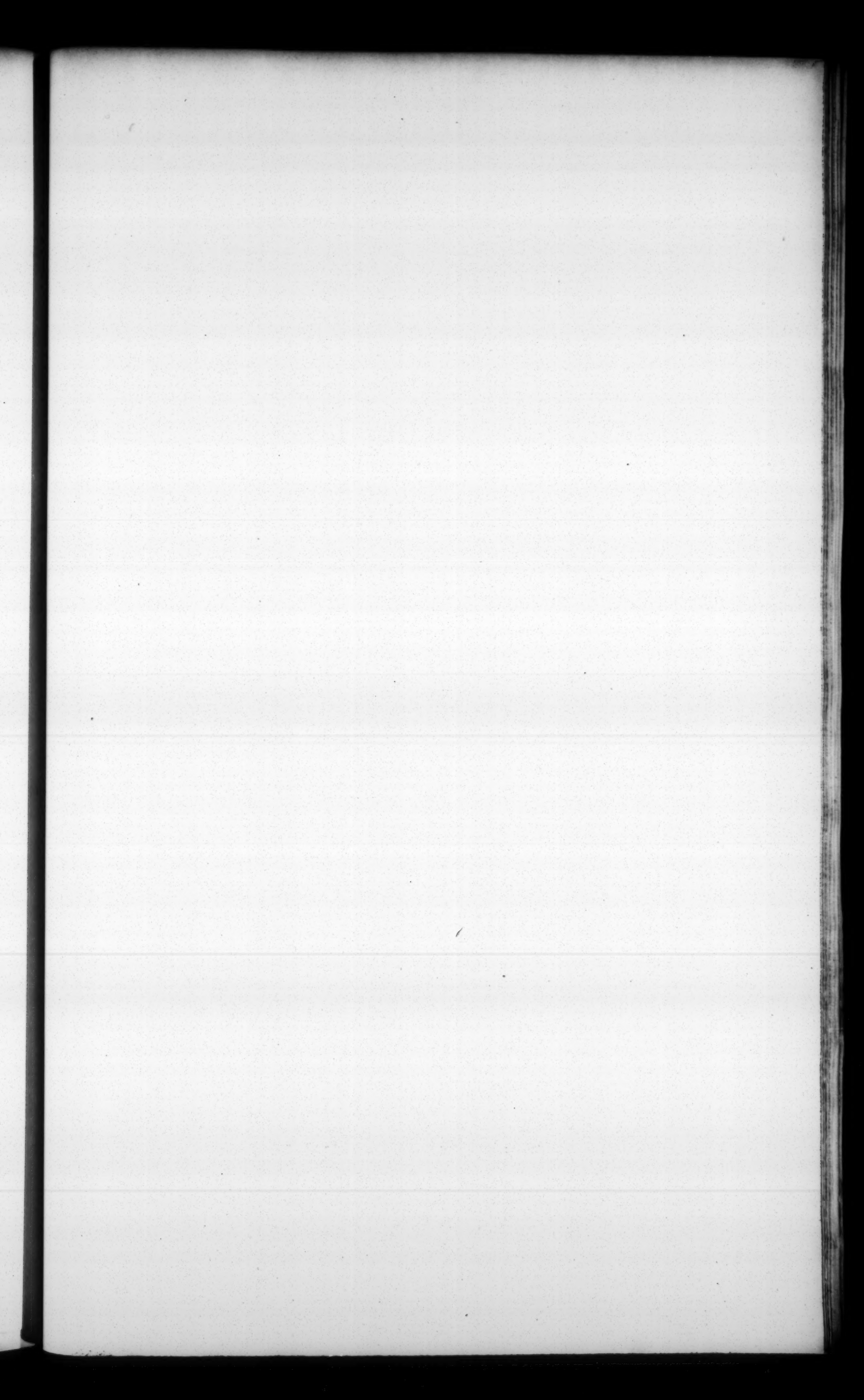
OF all granivorous birds, says Buffon, the Goldfinch is supposed to be the most nearly allied to the Siskin; both have the bill elongated and slender towards the point; are gentle, docile, and lively. Some naturalists have considered them as two proximate species of the same genus. With regard to organization, or instinct, the difference is striking. The Siskin has a song peculiar to itself, but inferior to that of the Goldfinch. It is fond of the seeds of the alder, which the other will not touch. It creeps along the branches, and suspends itself at their extremities like the Tomtit; so that it may be considered an intermediate species between this latter and the Goldfinch. It is also a bird of passage, and in its emigration flies very high; it is heard before it is seen. The Goldfinch continues with us all the year, and never flies very high. It is also observed, that these birds seldom or never associate together voluntarily. The Siskin may be taught to draw water like the Goldfinch. In an aviary it is always the first to awake; is harmless and unsuspicious. It is more easily tamed than any other bird, when taken old; and by social treatment it may be domesticated like the Canary bird. The Siskin is nice in the choice of its food, but eats plentifully, and enjoys itself much if fed to its liking. In an aviary, it chooses a friend of its own species; if this cannot be, it selects one from some other, which it feeds like its young. It drinks frequently, but seldom bathes, and then rarely goes into the water, but stands on the rim of the vessel to dip its bill and breast. It is said to build chiefly in mountain forests; its nest is so difficult to find, that it is a received opinion with the vulgar, that it has the art of rendering its nest invisible by means of a stone. Hence no precise account has been met with of the structure, &c. of its nest. There is so marked a sympathy between this species and the Canary bird, that if a cock Siskin be put into a place with Canary birds, they immediately and reciprocally exchange endearments. When a cock Siskin pairs with a hen Canary bird, he assiduously helps her to prepare the nest, and feeds her while sitting. But from this alliance, it must be confessed, that the greatest part of their eggs are clear. A conformity of temperament, as well as a union of disposition, being necessary for fecundation. The few mule birds which are the produce of this union, resemble both father and mother.

In Germany, the migration of the Siskins begin in October, or even earlier; at that time they feed on the seed of hops, to the great injury of the proprietors. The place they have stopt in is well known by the quantity of leaves with which the ground is strewed. They disappear in the month of December, and return in February. In France they come at vintage time, and return when the trees are in flower; they are fondest of the flowers of the apple-tree. They are sometimes seen on their passage in great numbers, and at other times in very small flocks. The great flights happen every third or fourth year, and then so great is the multitude, that some suppose them to have been brought by the wind.

The song of the Siskin is not disagreeable, but is much inferior to that of the Goldfinch, whose note it acquires with ease; it will also appropriate that of the Canary Bird or Linnet, if it hears them at an early age.

According to Olin, this bird lives to the age of ten years. It is generally agreed, that among birds the females live longer than the males. The Siskins are little subject to diseases, except to inflammations of the intestines, when they have been fed on hemp-feed.





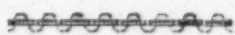


The Dotrill.

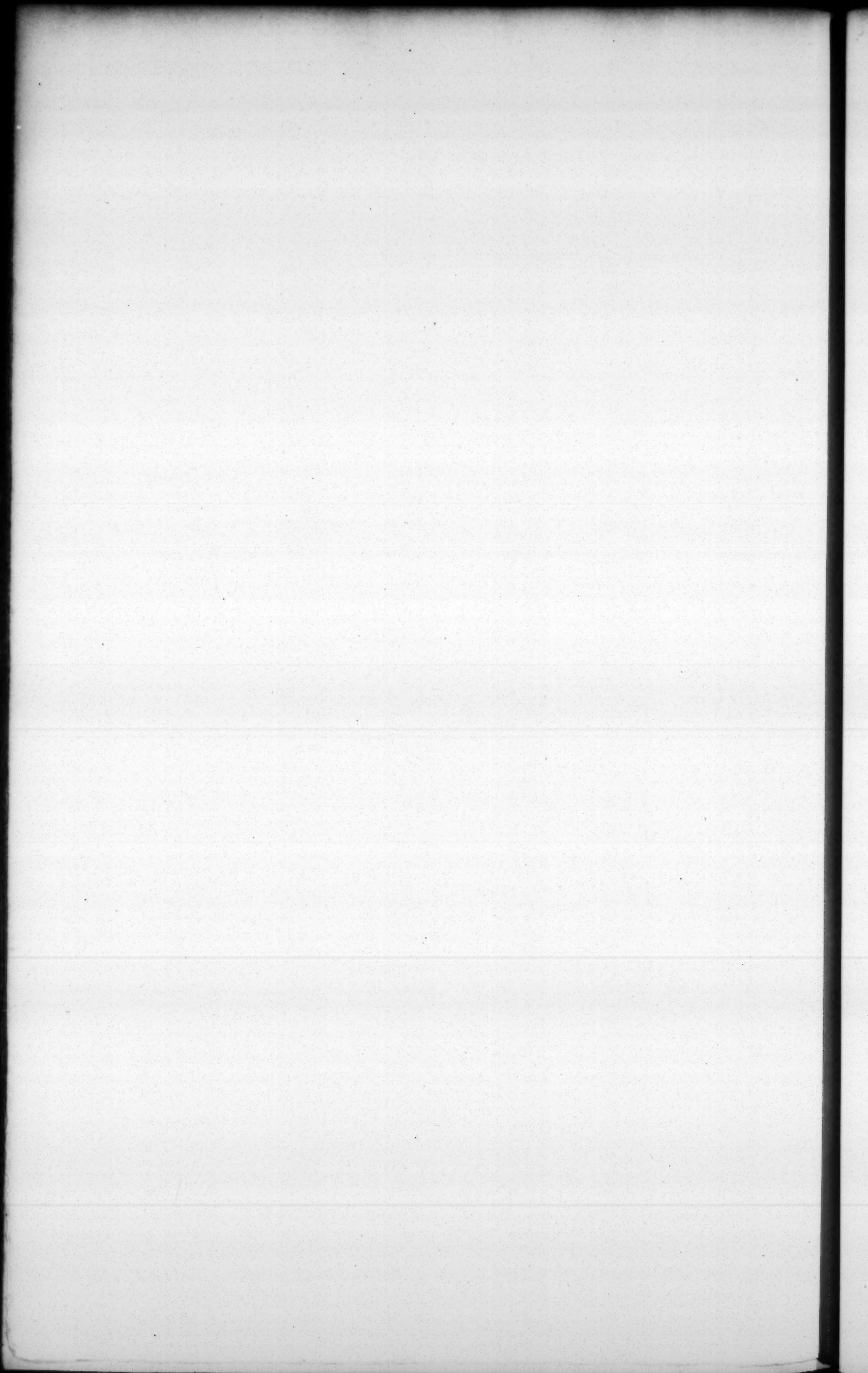
Painted, Engraved & Published Nov: 1831. by T. Lord. N^o 468. Strand.

PLATE CV.

The Dotterell.



AS this is a bird of passage, there remains little to be said of it. However, it is esteemed a very foolish bird, and is said to mimic the actions of the fowler, stretching out a wing when he stretches out an arm, &c. regardless of the net which is spreading over it. They appear in England, in small flocks, from April to September.





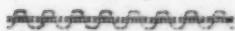
The Female Widgeon.

Printed, Engraved & Published April 1896.

by T. Lord, N^o 408, Strand.

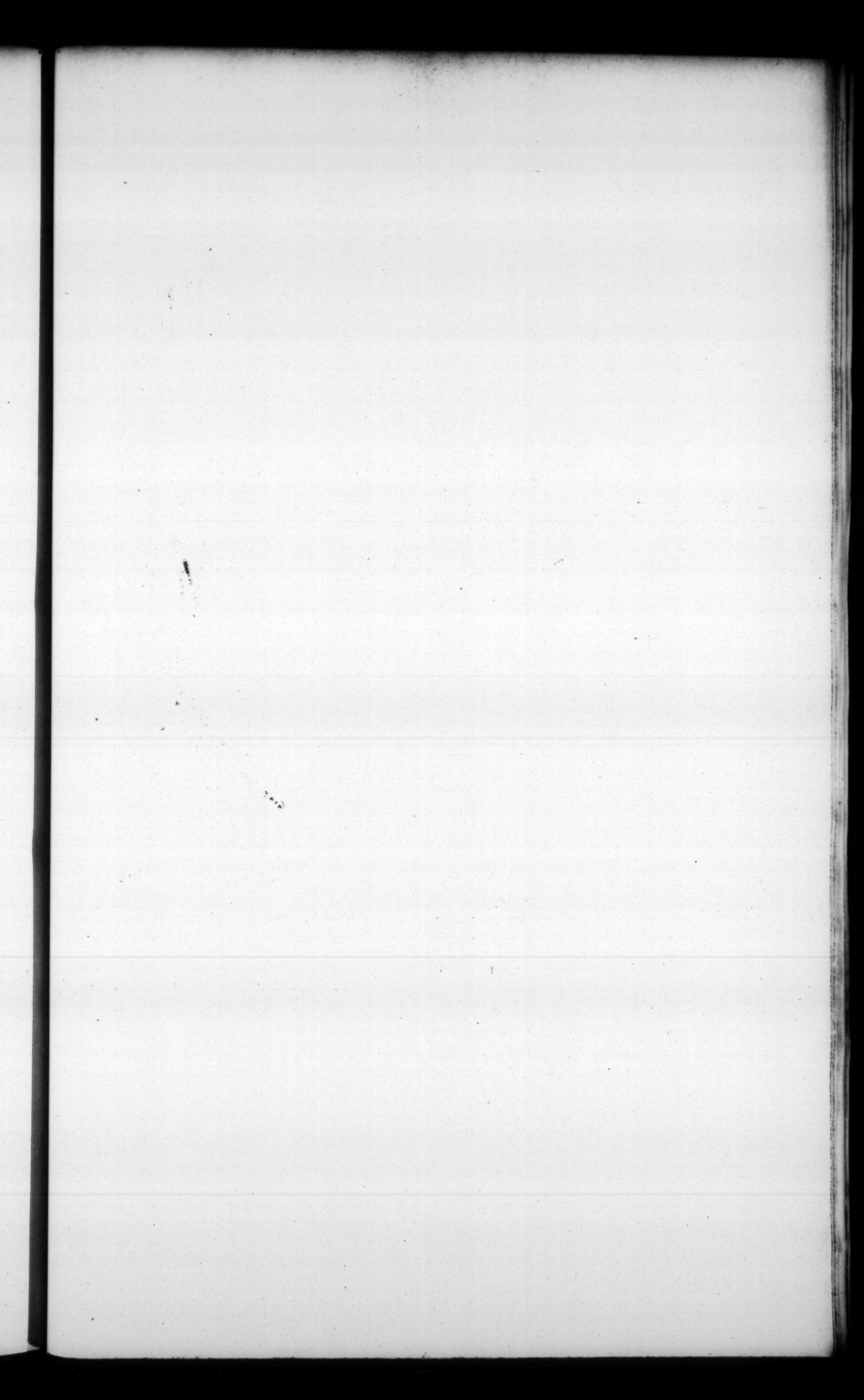
P L A T E C V I.

The Widgeon,



REPRESENTED in this plate, is the female. These birds are pretty common in Cambridgeshire and the Isle of Ely, where the male is called the Widgeon, and the female the Whewer. They feed upon wild periwinkles, grafs, weeds, &c. which grow at the bottom of rivers and lakes. In size they are between the Wild Duck and the Teal; their flesh has a very delicious taste, not inferior to the Teal or Wild Duck.

10 11 12





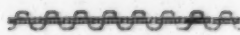
The Male Shoveler.

by T. Lord, N^o 468. Strand.

Printed, Engraved & Published April 1796.

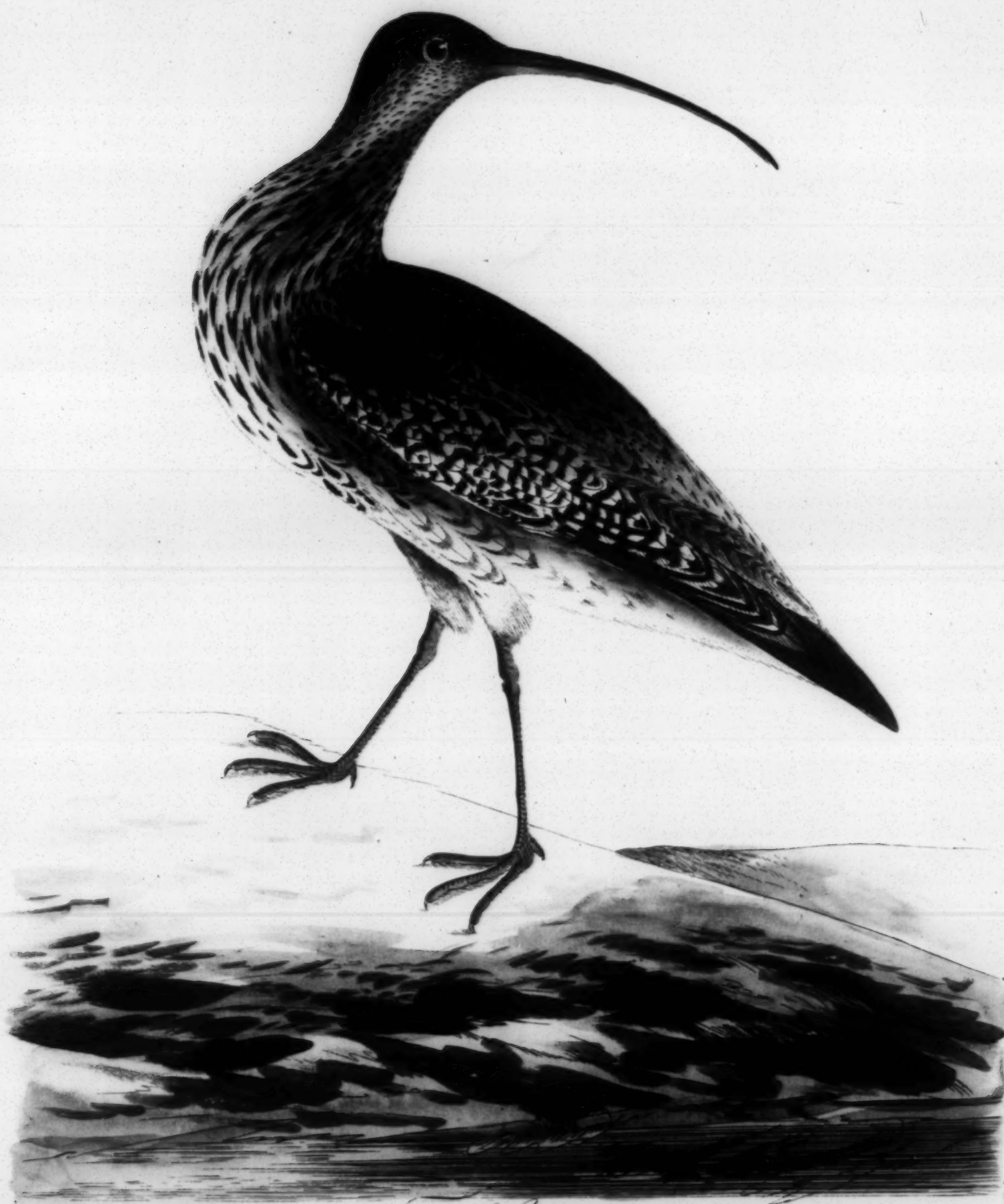
PLATE CVII.

The Shoveller.



THIS bird is given the size of life. It is of the Wild Duck kind. There are but few taken, not being of a numerous specie; and those which are, more for their beauty than for the table, being very inferior in taste to the common Wild Duck. They breed in the fens. It is observable, that each mandible of the bill is toothed like a comb. The tongue is broad and fleshy, especially towards the end, the tip of which is of a sort of semicircular form.

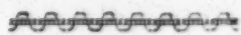
PLATE CML



The Curlew
Painted, Engraved & Published Novr 1796 by T. Lord, N^o 468. Strand.

P L A T E C V I I I .

The Curlew.



LATHAM enumerates eleven species of this bird, differing very much in size, of which the one here given is the largest, measuring from the point of the bill to the tip of the tail, twenty-four inches, and twenty-eight from the extremity of each wing, when extended, and round the breast twelve inches; the bill five inches and a half long. These birds fly in considerable flocks, and are well known upon the Sea coast, in most parts, where and in the marshes they frequent in the winter, feeding upon worms, frogs, and all kind of marine insects. In April or the beginning of May they retire unto the mountains and unfrequented parts of the Sea shore, where they breed, and do not return again until the approach of winter. There have been some advocates in favour of the flesh of this bird; but in general it is strong, rank, and fishy. The feet are divided, but joined by a little membrane at the root. The tongue is very short, considering the length of the bill, and bears some resemblance to an arrow.

PLATE IV.

